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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate the credibility of CUC's explanation for its power rate increases, 1 being equivalent to "highly questionable" and 10 equivalent to "totally credible"?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Pistang Pinoy

This year's Pistang Pinoy celebration will be seeing a new home.

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Angelina Jolie and Jennifer Aniston are sharing a play date.

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"While these are very difficult decisions to make, the record fuel costs, combined with lower customer demand in these markets, led to the decision to suspend service."

—Mark Erwin, Continental Micronesia's president and chief executive officer

Continental to drop Manila flights

Saipan-Manila flights to end July 16

AP

A customer gets in line at the airport, Thursday, June 12, 2008.

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Citing a dramatic hike in fuel costs and low sales, Continental Airlines on Friday revealed it will soon end service between Saipan and Manila, the only direct flight on the island to the Philippines, in a move that threatens to limit access to specialized medical care for locals and disrupt travel for many foreign workers.

See CONTINENTAL on Page 4

Poll: Many in world look to US election for change

By ALAN FRAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—People around the globe widely expect the next American president to improve the country's policies toward the rest of the world, especially if Barack Obama is elected, yet they retain a persistently poor image of the U.S., according to a poll released Thursday.

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POLL

Obama more favorable globally

The majority of people in 12 of 23 countries say they have more confidence in Sen. Barack Obama than Sen. John McCain.

Percentage of people having a lot or some confidence

	Obama	McCain
U.S.	59%	60
Britain	74	44
France	84	33
Germany	82	33
Spain	72	19
Poland	53	37
Russia	39	22
Turkey	20	5
Egypt	31	23
Jordan	22	23
Lebanon	34	25
Australia	80	40
China	36	31
India	33	28
Indonesia	52	17
Japan	77	40
Pakistan	10	6
S. Korea	56	31
Brazil	58	35
Mexico	29	19
Nigeria	48	32
S. Africa	36	28
Tanzania	84	50

SOURCE: Pew Research Center AP

Transmitter malfunction downs KRNM

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

KRNM, the CNMI's only public noncommercial radio station, was knocked off the air Thursday morning due to technical difficulties with its transmitter.

See TRANSMITTER on Page 4

Shell matches Mobil price hike

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Higher global oil costs prompted Shell stations on Saipan to boost prices for gasoline on Thursday, matching those at Mobil stations, where prices jumped 18 cents earlier this week.

Shell stations on Saipan received orders

See SHELL on Page 4

NEW SHELL PRICES

SELF-SERVICE	
■ Regular	$4.809
■ Premium	$4.959
FULL-SERVICE	
■ Regular	$4.939
■ Premium	$5.079
■ Diesel	$5.679

Pete A. sees bruising battle for delegate seat. PAGE 2
Calvo wanted for new sexual abuse charges. PAGE 3

Local

Pete A. sees bruising battle for delegate seat

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio is bracing for what he expects to be "a hard fight" for the Northern Marianas' newly created congressional seat.

The NMI Republican Party has officially declared Tenorio as its official candidate for the historic election on Nov. 4, 2008. This came after the two other GOP members who had expressed interest in running—Rep. Ray Yumul and attorney Victorino Torres—dropped out of the race.

Tenorio will face at least five other candidates, most of them running independent. They are Sen. Luis Crisostimo, retired judge Juan T. Lizama, Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan, television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, and businessman Patrick M. Calvo.

Addressing a crowd of about 50 local Republicans on Thursday evening, Tenorio called on the GOP members to put differences aside and support his bid to become the Commonwealth's first ever delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

"I respect the differences among us. We are all entitled to our own positions. But in the end, I hope we can agree to pursue what is in the best interest of the party. Please help me to achieve this goal of being elected not only to represent the party, but the entire Commonwealth," Tenorio said.

Tenorio acknowledged that he had taken views on certain issues that are not necessarily favored by some party members. His support for the recently approved immigration measure, for instance, had caused such controversy that he admittedly felt isolated whenever he was on island.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios echoed Tenorio's call for party unity. "There are those among us who may not agree with Pete on some issues, and that's something we're going to work out as a party. But I ask all of you, let us rally behind our candidate," he said.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes also said the local Republicans should "pool our resources to make sure we bring Pete [Tenorio] back to Washington, D.C. He has the experience to lead the CNMI ahead."

For his part, Rep. Diego T. Benavente said people should look at the big picture and consider Tenorio's overall record as politician. "We've had our disagreements over one or two areas. But there has also been so much he has done over his one and a half term in Washington that has benefited the CNMI," he said.

Still, it seems some party members need more convincing.

One prominent GOP member, who refused to be named, said Tenorio will not have his vote come Nov. 4. The source said Tenorio traded the interest of the Commonwealth for personal benefit. He said that, during the Covenant negotiations, Tenorio pushed for the military lease of Northern Marianas lands, despite the cheap price, because Tenorio had his eyes on the position of executive director of the transition team.

Tenorio has also been accused of supporting immigration "federalization" as a tradeoff for a congressional delegate seat for the Northern Marianas.

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Calvo wanted for new sexual abuse charges

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Businessman Patrick Mendiola Calvo on Tuesday announced he would join the delegate race. Now he is wanted by police on charges that he sexually abused an under-aged girl.

The Superior Court issued yesterday a warrant for the arrest of the 43-year-old Calvo, according to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro. As of press time, there were no reports if he has already been arrested.

Ogumoro said Calvo is facing charges of sexual assault in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, and disturbing the peace.

Ogumoro said she has no other details of the incident.

She said police detectives are seeking the community's assistance in providing any information leading to the whereabouts of the businessman.

"Anyone having information about his whereabouts is asked to call 911, the Criminal Investigation Division at 664-9042/45/9050 or Crime Stoppers at 234-7272 if they wish to remain anonymous," the spokesperson said.

Calvo is the owner of Calvo's Nursery and Landscaping and the Island Farmers Market. He is also the current president of the Saipan Rotary Club.

On Tuesday, Calvo told *Saipan Tribune* he will run for the U.S. Congress as an independent candidate.

In November 2000, the Attorney General's Office filed separate cases charging the businessman with sexual abuse of two children. The government alleged that Calvo committed the sexual abuse on one child on April 1, 1997 and did the same offense on the other girl in January 1998.

Saipan Tribune learned that the cases dragged on for years in local courts before being dismissed.

Tension high in public hearing on new immigration category

In a tense hearing at the Commonwealth House Chamber Thursday night, foreign workers and local residents on opposite sides of a controversial immigration bill presented their competing cases to lawmakers.

The legislation, H.B. 16-86, proposes to create a new type of entry permit that would give long-term foreign workers added flexibility.

See TENSION on Next Page

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Police: Ex-senator's son caused 3-vehicle mishap

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The 18-year-old son of former Tinian senator Joaquin G. Adriano was the cause of Tuesday's three-vehicle crash along Beach Road, Garapan that injured five persons.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said that based on preliminary investigation, Shane P. Adriano violated a provision of the CNMI Vehicle Code.

Ogumoro said the code specifically states that "in no event shall any motor vehicle be operated at speed greater than will permit it to be stopped within the assured clear distance ahead."

The DPS spokesperson, however, emphasized that alcohol was not a factor in the crash. She pointed out that the weather was clear and the road surface, including the shoulder area, was dry.

After the accident, Shane Adriano told *Saipan Tribune* that the car he was following should have stopped in the center lane to turn left.

Preliminary investigation showed that Barbara T. Lontoc, 42, was driving south along Beach Road on Tuesday afternoon when she stopped to make a left turn on Taibwo Street.

Shane Adriano, who was behind her, failed to stop in time and rear-ended Lontoc's car.

After the impact, Lontoc's car spun to the left and entered the northbound lane, colliding with a 1998 Kia Trans cargo truck being driven by Allan B. Vila.

The cargo truck was pushed to the right, where it collided with the anchor of a power pole in front of the 7-Eleven Store. This caused the truck to tip over and come to a final rest on the driver's side.

Lontoc and her passenger, Ana P. Angulo, 51, were transported by medics to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment and evaluation.

According to the report, Lontoc complained of pain in the head, while Angulo suffered abrasions on her left knee and pain on the right shoulder. The car had moderate damage to the rear.

Vila complained of pain in the legs, while his passenger, Michael A. Sablan, 38, had no injuries.

Saipan Tribune, however, observed bruises and scratches on the legs and arms of Vila and Sablan.

Police said Shane Adriano and his passenger, former senator Joaquin Adriano, had no injuries.

Saipan Tribune observed a scratch mark on Shane Adriano's left arm.

The van had moderate damage to the front and left side of the vehicle. The pickup truck had moderate damage to the front.

POLL

From Page 1

The survey of two dozen countries, conducted this spring by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center, also found a growing despondency over the international economy, with majorities in 18 nations calling domestic economic conditions poor. In more bad news for the U.S., people shared a widespread sense the American economy was hurting their countries, including large majorities in U.S. allies Britain, Germany, Australia, Turkey, France and Japan.

Even six in 10 Americans agreed the U.S. economy was having a negative impact abroad.

Views of the U.S. improved or stayed the same as last year in 18 nations, the first positive signs the poll has found for the U.S. image worldwide this decade. Even so, many improvements were modest and the U.S. remains less popular in most countries than it was before it invaded Iraq in 2003, with majorities in only eight expressing favorable opinions.

Substantial numbers in most countries said they are closely following the U.S. presidential election, including 83 percent in Japan - about the same proportion who said so in the U.S. Of those following the campaign, optimism that the new president will reshape American foreign policy for the better is substantial, with the largest segment of people in 14 countries - including the U.S. - saying so.

Andrew Kohut, president of Pew, said many seem to be hoping the U.S. role in the world will improve with the departure of President Bush, who remains profoundly unpopular almost everywhere.

"People think the U.S. wants to run the world," said Kohut. "It's not more complicated than that."

Countries most hopeful the new president will improve U.S. policies include France, Spain and Germany, where public opposition to Bush's policies in Iraq and elsewhere has been strong. Strong optimism also came from countries where pique with U.S. policies has been less pronounced, including India, Nigeria, Tanzania and South Africa.

Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon have the strongest expectations the next president will worsen U.S. policies, consistent with the skepticism expressed on many issues in the survey by Muslim countries. Japan, Turkey, Russia, South Korea and Mexico had large numbers saying the election would change little.

Among those tracking the American election, greater numbers in 20 countries expressed more confidence in Obama, the likely Democratic nominee, than John McCain, the Republican candidate, to handle world affairs properly. The two contenders were tied in the U.S., Jordan and Pakistan. Obama's edge was largest in Western Europe, Australia, Japan, Tanzania and Indonesia, where he lived for a time as a child.

The U.S. was the only country where most expressed confidence in McCain. Besides the countries where he and Obama were tied, McCain's smallest gaps against his rival were in India and China, where neither man engenders much confidence.

The U.S. is seen as the world's leading economic power by 22 countries in the survey. Yet in 11 countries, more think China will replace the U.S. as the world's dominant superpower or has already done so than predict that will never happen.

TENSION

From Page 3

Proponents of the bill say it could lay the groundwork for the eventual federalization of the Commonwealth's immigration system and prevent worker abuses. Many business leaders and local residents, however, oppose the legislation, saying the added concessions to foreign workers are unwarranted and – among other reasons -- could result in a deluge of immigrants on the island.

Furthermore, many opponents also view the bill as unnecessary given the pending federalization the Commonwealth's immigration system.

"16-86 is too little too late," said local businessman Alex Sablan, adding the coming federalization will impose strict controls on the number of foreign workers on Saipan regardless of any local legislation. "Going forward with this bill is a waste time."

In contrast, supporters of the bill suggested it would prove useful as a starting point for federal officials to craft new immigration rules for the Commonwealth.

"It's important to have a system in place before the feds come here," said Saipan resident Ruth Tigh. "Putting this bill into effect will give the feds a picture of what could be done." ***(Stefan Sebastian)***

SHELL

From Page 1

to increase gas prices by 18 cents on Wednesday to $4.80 per gallon, but the change only took effect Thursday morning, according to one gas station attendant.

Diesel gas prices on Saipan also increased by 20 cents that same day.

Jeff Boyer, retail manager for Shell Marianas, attributed the price hike to global increases in the cost of crude oil.

Shell's price jump came only a day after Mobil stations on the island increased prices to the same level.

As of press time, the price of oil was holding steady at $136 per barrel, but had spiked up to $139 earlier this week. An announcement by Nigeria's state-owned oil company that it will take over some operations from Royal Dutch Shell PLC prompted an increase Thursday due to concerns it will limit the company's production.

TRANSMITTER

From Page 1

Station manager Carl Pogue said the station was not able to broadcast any of its programs since Thursday morning as the transmitter has not been functioning correctly.

"I know a couple who have tuned in and were afraid that NMC [Northern Marianas College] pulled the plug on us and that is not the case. This is merely just equipment problem," Pogue said. The radio is based at the college.

He said he has tried using all the spare parts he has available but that did not fix the problem. He has now turned to two engineers who will assess the problem over the next two days and will determine what is needed to resume the station's broadcast.

According to Pogue, "it could be anywhere from four days to two weeks" until the station gets back on the air.

The engineers, he said, will determine whether the transmitter can be fixed on island or whether KRNM would need to have replacement parts sent to them.

"Hopefully, this won't result in too much of an additional expense as we're still several thousand dollars shy of assuring the college that we'll be able to cover our operational costs over the next few months," he said.

He added KRNM would need to "remain on the air through September if the unification with KPRG to form Marianas Public Radio is to come to fruition."

CONTINENTAL

From Page 1

"This will have a hugely negative impact on our ability to get people here the medical care they need," said Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, adding that hospitals in Manila are the primary recipients of local hospital patients with ailments that require advanced treatment and that the alternative—airlifting patients to Guam—will prove costly and highly problematic.

In addition, the cut in service could prompt cutbacks at the Commonwealth Ports Authority, a government source said, because it will mean less revenue at an agency that is already on shaky financial footing.

Continental in statement said it will stop service on the Saipan-to-Manila route on July 16 and customers with reservations for flights after that date will receive calls from the company, which will rearrange their travel plans or offer a refund.

The announcement comes after a jump in jet fuel costs to almost $100 per barrel, a 140-percent increase since January 2007.

"While these are very difficult decisions to make, the record fuel costs, combined with lower customer demand in these markets, led to the decision to suspend service," said Mark Erwin, Continental Micronesia's president and chief executive officer.

The airline also blamed the loss of Manila customers traveling to Saipan to take the National Council Licensure Examination nursing examinations. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing began NCLEX testing in Manila in August 2007, eliminating the need for Filipino nurses to travel to Saipan to take the exam.

"Despite our best efforts, working with the Marianas Visitors Authority and the government of CNMI, we were unable to generate sufficient customer demand from the Philippines to replace the loss of our customers traveling to Saipan to take the NCLEX exam.

"We will continue to offer our valued customers in the CNMI and Philippines daily service with our connecting service via our Guam hub," said Continental's director of sales and marketing David Kendell.

Continental's move comes as hospitals in Guam have begun turning away some referrals from Saipan due to a lack of hospital beds there, Villagomez said. Until now, the flights to Manila have proven an inexpensive and effective way to get seriously ill patients specialized care. To move many patients to Guam, he said, health officials most often have to charter a flight at a cost of up to $15,000. Moreover, Cape Air, the primary air service from Saipan to Guam, which patients with less grave needs can take, lacks the certification to carry oxygen tanks, he said.

A source with Asiana Airlines, which runs air service from Saipan to Korea, said its flights are equipped to carry medical stretchers but was unable to answer whether the company could carry oxygen tanks. Northwest Airlines did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

To the many Filipino workers on Saipan, Continental's cut in service will mean a more arduous journey to their home country. Filipinos without U.S. visas are concerned they might be barred from traveling to Guam in order to catch flights to Manila from there, according to Irene Tantiado, president of the Coalition of United Workers, a local organization that represents many foreigners working on Saipan.

"Really, although we understand the reason for it, this will be very bad for guest workers who don't have visas," said Tantiado. Those workers might be forced to travel longer routes through Korea or Japan to get home, she added, a change that will cut into vacation time. Moreover, some workers fear the other airlines will increase prices to destinations with connecting flights to the Philippines, she said.

At the CPA, acting executive director Lee Cabrera said the cut in Continental's service will "make it more difficult for CPA when it comes to investment issues and bond issues" and that the agency "regrets the loss of the flights."

Ironically, Continental Airlines official Walter Dias visited Saipan in May to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the company's service on the island, he noted.

A confidential source with CPA said Continental's Saipan to Manila service generated $106,000 each year in revenue for the agency, which places a charge on flights entering and leaving the island. In April 2008, the source said, flights on that route brought 943 passengers to Saipan, while 616 departed. The source noted that without the funds provided by those flights, the agency may have "to cut somewhere" to close that financial gap.

Continental will also cut more than a fifth of capacity at its small Pacific hub in Guam.

This development comes even as the islands' tourism industry continues to reel from the effects of Japan Airlines' cancellation of regular air service to the Commonwealth in October 2005.

Although it is generally seen as one of the healthiest network carriers, Continental is struggling along with other airlines to cope with rapidly rising fuel costs and a slumping economy. A number of industry observers say the current crisis is as bad as, if not worse than, the sharp downturn that followed the Sept. 11 attacks, which preceded a series of airline bankruptcy filings.

About 3,000 job losses are expected as a result of the cutbacks. Continental said it believes most of the cuts will occur "through voluntary programs," which could include early retirement or temporary leaves of absence. ***(With AP)***

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Hafa Adai!
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Rotten tomatoes

When high levels of E. coli bacteria turned spinach into a mealtime menace in 2006, we agreed with calls to give the Food and Drug Administration the power to issue mandatory recalls of tainted produce. We also supported the smart idea to require the FDA and other agencies with responsibility over food safety to institute a tracing system so that the next outbreak of tainted food could be contained in days, not weeks. Well, the next outbreak is upon us. And neither good idea has been implemented.

The latest outbreak involves the rare Saintpaul strain of salmonella bacteria in Roma, red plum and red round tomatoes. Don't worry about homegrown, cherry and grape tomatoes or those attached to the vine. The FDA says they are safe. What should make us all worry is the disturbing timeline. Since mid-April, 167 people in 17 states, including Virginia, have been infected with Salmonella saintpaul. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as of Monday, "At least 23 people were hospitalized. No deaths have been reported." A search for the source of the outbreak has been under way since last month after Texas and New Mexico reported cases. The CDC issued its first warning to consumers on June 5. Stores and restaurants across the country have been pulling tomatoes from their shelves and menus voluntarily since the weekend. Relying on the consciences of folks worried about the bottom line or their corporate reputations is not ideal.

Nestled within the Food Safety Act of 2007 under consideration in the House is a provision sponsored by Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo., that would give the Agriculture Department and the FDA the power to issue a mandatory recall of contaminated food. This is more than reasonable, since the federal government can and did recall lead-tainted toys imported from China last year. Besides, the hammer of potential government action would be a powerful incentive for growers and packers to conform to safety standards.

What's missing from the act is another provision pushed by Ms. DeGette that would require that food producers track their products from "farm to fork." Rep. John D. Dingell, D-Mich., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, who is shepherding the act through the House, should include the tracking provision as part of the package—and then get the legislation passed. This and the power to recall are two tools that would make it easier to protect the nation's food supply and find the source of tainted meat and vegetables the moment an outbreak occurs—not months and many victims later.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Helping Clinton land on her feet

By ROB LONG
Special to the Los Angeles Times

"Barack Obama, in his first day as the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, named Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, Jim Johnson and Eric Holder to lead the search for a running mate." -- Bloomberg News

Job Interview Transcript, 6/7/08
Interviewer: C. Kennedy
Interviewee: H. Clinton

K: "It's 4 in the afternoon. I'm here with Hillary Rodham Clinton, senator from New York, and I'm beginning the interview now. Um, do you mind if I tape this?"

C: "Is it really necessary?"

K: "Well, sort of. I mean, we taped Richardson, and that turns out to have been a good idea. For a lot of reasons."

C: "It's just that this is sort of ... I'm Hillary Clinton."

K: "Well, you know, honestly, I don't know how to handle this. I've never done this before."

C: "Hired a vice president?"

K: "No. Had an actual job. I've co-written a book or two, and I put out a collection of my mom's poems, but as far as any serious human resources experience, you know, not so much."

C: "Then why on Earth did he ... you know what? Forget it. Let's just get this over with."

K: "OK, then. Um, first question: *Alguna vez han sido detenidos por la policia?*"

C: "Excuse me?"

K: "Oops. Sorry. That's the form I used when I hired my kids' nanny. Let me just flip this over. OK. OK. Got it. OK. Here goes. What is your career objective?"

C: "Are you kidding me?"

K: "It's for the form I need to fill out. I'll just put down, `To secure a challenging and meaningful position in the dynamic vice president of the United States industry.' "

C: "Well, I guess that's the nutshell version."

K: "How are you with Excel and PowerPoint?"

C: "Am I being punked? 'Cause that's what this sounds like."

K: "Oh God. I'm sorry. I know I'm screwing this up. It's just that, you know, I've never done anything like this before. So I got a copy of `HR for Dummies,' and it says to tape everything and try to make the applicant feel comfortable and pay attention to their shoes."

C: "Their shoes?"

K: "I didn't get it either. But apparently people who take care of their shoes are trustworthy and detail-oriented. So could you just ... lift up your leg?"

C: "I am so out of here."

K: "Wait! I'm sorry! OK, look, I'm sorry. Please stay. We're almost done, I promise. I'm just trying to do a good job here. Trying to be thorough. OK, next question. What would you say are your greatest strengths?"

C: "I guess my greatest strength is that I never give up, Caroline. I'm a fighter. For the issues and the causes that I believe in, for the people of this great country whom I wish to serve. I'll fight to make life better for all of us, for our children and for the future. You know, I've spent most of my life working on issues and caring about people. And I've got a record of accomplishment that I can be proud of. But I'm not done by any means.

Caroline, there are still many things we need to change, so many things we need to fix, so many people we need to reach out to, to help, to lend a hand to. And I'm eager to roll up my sleeves and get to it. I'm raring to go, Caroline. And even better, I'm prepared from Day One to get things done."

K: "Well, that's ... um ... see, the form only gives me this little space here. So can I just put down `Interfaces well with co-workers?' "

C: "That's fine."

K: "Great. And what about your biggest weaknesses?"

C: "Well, Caroline, it's that I care too much. You can't have spent so much time touching people's lives and fighting for change as I have without getting deeply attached to the people and the voices I've heard across this great country. And deeply committed to working toward making life ... "

K: "Um, again, I've only got this little box here to write in ... cool, thanks."

C: "Is that it?"

K: "Yeah, I think that's pretty much it for this part. We've got your Social, and I'm assuming you're a U.S. citizen, so that's all cool. And I see that you're already an employee of the federal government, so that should make the bennies easy to transfer. Now, do you have any questions for me?"

C: "How was Biden's interview?"

K: "Gosh, I'm just not authorized to discuss the other applicants."

C: "OK."

K: "Oh, one last question. In the event that we do fill this particular spot with another candidate, would you be willing to allow us to keep your name and application on file and contact you about other opportunities that might arise?"

C: "Let me think about that."

K: "I'll just check the `Yes' box. Because you never know."

C: "You can say that again."

Long, a TV writer and producer, is a contributing editor to the Los Angeles Times' *Opinion section.*

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The old al-Qaida has faded. Meet the next generation.

By MARK SAGEMAN
Special to The Washington Post

Sageman is a sociologist, forensic psychiatrist and scholar in residence at the New York Police Department. He is the author of Understanding Terror Networks and Leaderless Jihad.

We are fighting the wrong foe. Over the past six years, the nature of the international Islamist terrorist threat to the West has changed dramatically, but Western governments are still fighting the last war — set up to fight an old al-Qaida that is now largely contained. Unless we understand this sea change, we will be unable to ward off the new menace.

The version of al-Qaida that Osama bin Laden founded is a fading force. After five detainees who allegedly planned the Sept. 11, 2001, atrocities were arraigned recently before a U.S. military tribunal at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, it's worth remembering that the terrorists behind 9/11 were mostly young, well-educated middle-class expatriates from Muslim countries who had become radicalized abroad, especially in the West. Such key 9/11 plotters as Mohamed Atta, Ramzi Binalshibh, Ziad Jarrah and Marwan al-Shehhi met and became radicalized as students in Hamburg, then went to Afghanistan looking for al-Qaida.

But over the past six years, most of the professional terrorists who fit this profile have been eliminated during the U.S.-led manhunt for "high-value targets." The few that remain are huddled in the Afghan-Pakistani border area, struggling to extend their reach beyond Pakistan.

That old guard is still dangerous and still plotting spectacular attacks. But it is the new wave that more urgently requires our attention. It is composed of homegrown youths who dream of glory and adventure, who yearn to belong to a heroic vanguard and to root their lives in a greater sense of meaning. Inspired by tales of past heroism, they hope to emulate their predecessors, even though, for the most part, they can no longer link up with al-Qaida Central in the Pakistani badlands. Their potential numbers are so great that they must now be seen as the main terrorist threat to the West.

This threat is not well understood by U.S. policymakers. After 9/11, I realized that spectacular instances of collective violence such as terrorism and the Holocaust tend to be the product of small-group dynamics, not individual action. (As a former CIA case officer who ran programs in Afghanistan in the 1980s, I learned how hard it was to motivate groups to perform field operations.) I began putting together graphs and charts to see how friendships and kinship groups had shaped al-Qaida's networks. I was able to recognize these concepts precisely because of my isolation from the U.S. government, which was focusing on old, top-down, command-and-control theories. And I worry again today that those charged with protecting us are not being imaginative or rigorous enough to understand the next generation of jihadists.

Unlike their pre-9/11 predecessors, today's would-be terrorists are usually the poorly educated teenage children of unskilled and secular Muslim immigrants. They have been born, raised and radicalized in their host countries (unlike, say, Atta, an Egyptian who recoiled at modern Germany). This new generation's youth culture celebrates a sort of "jihadist cool."

Consider the "Hofstad Netwerk" in the Netherlands, which I believe is typical of this new wave. It consists mostly of young people who were born in Holland or immigrated there very early in life. They met around their neighborhoods, in Internet cafes or in online chat rooms, then self-radicalized through their admiration for the supposed Islamist heroes fighting the West. One man linked to this cohort, Mohammed Bouyeri, repeatedly shot the Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh in 2004 on an Amsterdam street. Other members of this informal network reportedly planned to murder prominent Dutch politicians and bomb the Dutch parliament, a nuclear power plant and Amsterdam's international airport.

Or consider another network that sprang up in placid surroundings: the group of second-generation immigrant men and youths in the Toronto suburbs who Canadian authorities allege plotted to set off truck bombs in Toronto, bomb the Canadian Parliament and kill Prime Minister Stephen Harper. They reportedly spent time praising their terrorist heroes on the Internet and living out mujaheddin fantasies by playing paintball games in rural Ontario.

What makes next-gen terrorists tick? The process of radicalization consists of four prongs: having a sense of moral outrage, seeing this anger as part of a "war on Islam," believing that this view is consistent with one's everyday grievances, and mobilizing through networks.

Many Muslims feel a powerful sense of moral outrage at the treatment of their coreligionists, be it the sight of U.S. troops killing Muslims in Iraq or the aftermath of police harassment of local mosques. To lead to political violence, a next-generation jihadist must come to believe one simple sound bite: that there is a "war against Islam."

Unlike their fanatical predecessors, the new terrorists are not particularly religious. The defendants in the Hofstad trials, the March 2004 Madrid bombing trial, the Toronto case and the many trials in Britain are not intellectuals, let alone Islamic scholars. Many became religious only a few months before their arrests, and some are not religious at all. The new generation is not likely to be swayed by abstract arguments. Young jihadist wannabes do not go to Iraq to have theological debates; they go there to blow themselves up.

The problem has been worse in Europe than in the United States. In the land of the American dream and the melting pot, a broader, more inclusive view of American-ness undermines the jihadist insistence that the U.S. government is at war with its Muslim citizens. Overall, ordinary Muslim Americans simply do not feel some "war on Islam" in their daily experiences.

But the children of unskilled Muslim immigrants in Europe face discrimination across the continent, resulting in striking unemployment rates. Many non-Muslim Europeans resent having to compete with Muslim immigrants for low-level jobs and worry that poor immigrant suburbs mean higher crime rates. Anti-immigrant sentiment, which propelled far-right parties to win around 20 percent of the vote in contests in France, Austria and Switzerland in recent years, only reinforces the message of rejection.

There are many angry young Muslims in the world, of course. What transforms a tiny number of them into terrorists is mobilization by networks. Until a few years ago, these networks were made up of face-to-face groups: cliques of friends became radicalized together, acting as an echo chamber — amplifying grievances, intensifying members' bonds to one another, deepening their rejection of the values of the host society and making it easier to gradually separate themselves from it.

Over the past two or three years, online radicalization has begun to replace face-to-face radicalization. People's beliefs used to be changed in small cliques; now they are being altered in jihadist Internet forums. These forums have become virtual marketplaces for extremist ideas — the "invisible hand" organizing terrorist activities worldwide. They are transforming the terrorist movement, attracting ever younger members and women, who can now join in the discussions.

The West has successfully contained the terrorists who perpetrated 9/11. But al-Qaida has adapted from the bottom up, producing a network that's scattered, disconnected and decentralized. The new jihadist movement doesn't have an operational leader, but it is every bit as dangerous as the old one.

Memo to Obama: The pros and cons of picking Clinton

By CHARLES BABINGTON
The Associated Press

Sageman is a sociologist, forensic psychiatrist and scholar in residence at the New York Police Department. He is the author of Understanding Terror Networks and Leaderless Jihad.

Memo to Barack Obama: Now that you've named three people to help you pick a running mate, they surely will list the pros and cons of Hillary Rodham Clinton. And no doubt some kibitzers will do the same without your encouragement.

We happily fall into the second category, so we asked an array of political insiders, from all persuasions and parties, to offer their thoughts. Herewith, free of charge, is a summary of their responses.

Pro: Hillary helps with white, working-class voters. They abandoned you in droves in key states such as Ohio and Pennsylvania. Although they lean Democratic, many are threatening to stay home or vote for John McCain in November. Hillary appeals strongly to them, and she might help you keep Michigan and Pennsylvania in the Democratic column (from 2004) while boosting your chances to grab Ohio, Missouri and Florida.

Con: She undermines your core message. Your campaign theme from Day One was "Change." You made it clear you weren't referring only to the Bush administration but to a longer legacy of partisan warfare and endless score-settling in Washington. That reads "Clinton administration." Choosing Hillary may be a smart conventional move, but it smacks of predictable, old-school politics and it summons the ghosts of the divisive 1990s.

Chemistry

Pro: Hillary has enough experience and political heft to convince voters she could be president at a moment's notice, the "threshold question" for a vice president.

Con: You two don't seem to like each other very much. When you were closing in on the nomination, she kept exposing your weaknesses and portraying you as second-best. On your night of triumph, she stole your thunder by refusing to concede and by dropping hints of a vice presidential slot. Where is the chemistry, the trust, the compatibility?

Hatchet woman

Pro: She puts a battler on your team. The vice presidential nominee typically is the hatchet man (or woman) who leads the attack against the other ticket. Spiro Agnew worked it beautifully; John Edwards eschewed the role, with unhappy results. You're the basketball player, but Hillary throws elbows with the best.

Con: Battlers can overdo it. Fair or not, Hillary is a divisive figure who causes millions of Americans to seethe. No one stirs up the conservative base like she does, and that might offset the good she does in key Rust Belt regions and elsewhere.

Bill Clinton

Pro: Bill Clinton. Hillary comes packaged with the most successful Democratic politician of his generation. Still revered by many Democratic voters, Bill is an instinctive, fierce campaigner who left office with high approval ratings, a federal budget surplus and a nation at peace.

Con: Bill Clinton. Throw the "No Drama Obama" mantra out the window. The former president is a larger-than-life character who can't avoid microphones, cameras or controversy, even when campaigning as a surrogate. Opponents not only would dredge up the Lewinsky affair, impeachment, Lincoln Bedroom fund raisers, presidential pardons, etc., they also would delve into more recent questions about his huge fees from foreign interests and the possible national security conflicts they could present.

Race, gender

Pro: Hillary helps with women and Hispanics. Yes, this is partly a subset of Item No. 1. But Hillary ran very well among Hispanics, who are important to your hopes of winning Florida, Colorado and New Mexico. And many high-income, college-educated women also were drawn to her and are keenly disappointed at her second-place finish.

Con: How much history will Americans make? Political scientists know voting trends to the micro-precinct level, but no one has ever tested whether the nation will elect a woman or a black to the White House. Combating the combined powers of racial and gender prejudices in one year may be too much to ask.

2 for price of one

Pro: Hillary brings a proven team of fundraisers, planners and volunteers to the ticket.

Con: Why not get two for the price of one? To safeguard her husband's legacy and her own ambition, Hillary surely must campaign vigorously and wholeheartedly for you, whether she's on the ticket or not. Let her do so while you pick a running mate who brings other strengths.

Taste in music

Pro: She might put Arkansas in play. Bush won the state easily in 2004, but maybe the state's former first lady, whose husband's presidential library is in Little Rock, can put it in your column.

Con: She has dubious taste in music. Throughout Pennsylvania she played the theme from "Rocky," a movie about a white protagonist who beats up a black man before losing to him. And she made a Celine Dion tune her official campaign song. Enough said.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼90°	▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼80°

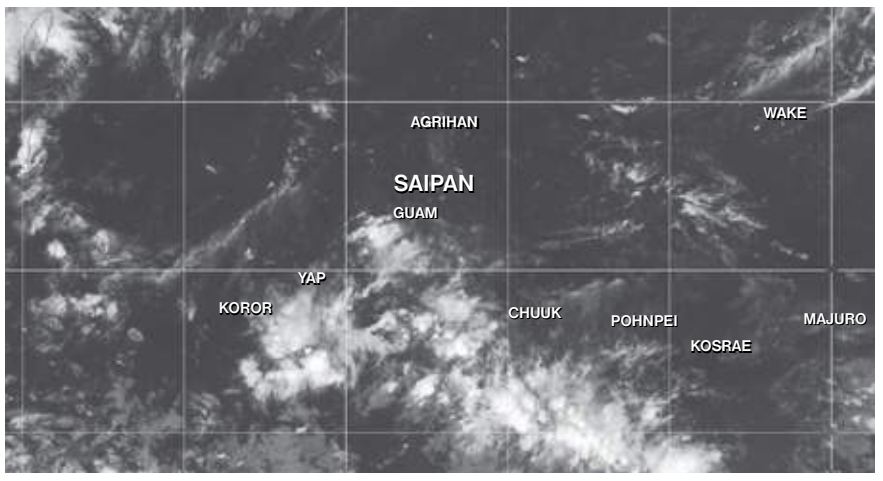
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼79
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲87	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲65	▼55
Beijing	Cloudy	▲88	▼66
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲83	▼74
London	Showers	▲63	▼48
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲83	▼62
Manila	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲59	▼52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
New York	Cloudy	▲88	▼68
Osaka	Cloudy	▲77	▼60
Paris	Showers	▲64	▼47
Pusan	Cloudy	▲73	▼62
Rome	Showers	▲73	▼54
Salem	Sunny	▲76	▼45
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼54
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼61
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼59
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲90	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 4N130E to a weak circulation centered southeast of Yap at 5N141E then southeastward to end at EQ148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough and circulation are occurring southeast of Palau and Yap or south of a line from 2N130E to 3N135E to 9N140E to 10N145E to 8N150E. A surface trough reaches northward from 10N143E to 16N141E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are taking place over Guam between 10N and 14N from 142E to 145E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms along the equator south of Chuuk and Pohnpei or south of a line from 4N150E to 4N156E to 2N161E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are also found over Tarawa and Butaritari Atolls to the south of a line from 3N169E to 6N180. A trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers over Majuro and just south of Kwajalein within 75 miles of a line from 6N166E to 8N172E. A shear line cuts across the northwest corner of the discussion area from 25N173E to 23N180. Cloudiness and scattered showers are evident along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N. Upper-level divergence is triggering a few thunderstorms along the shear line east of 175e.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:42AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:16AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
6:18PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:53PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:47AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:47AM	6:49 PM
Tuesday	5:47AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:47AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:06PM	2:06AM
Sunday	3:56PM	2:44AM
Monday	4:48PM	3:26AM
Tuesday	5:40PM	4:10AM
Wednesday	6:32PM	4:59AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

United, US Airways fee for 1st checked bag: $15

CHICAGO (AP)—Baggage fees are fast becoming an unavoidable part of U.S. flying—three of the largest carriers now charge $15 for a first checked bag. No. 2 United Airlines and No. 7 US Airways announced their new fees on Thursday, three weeks after No. 1 American Airlines set the precedent for the charge. Most U.S. carriers already have instituted a $25 charge for checking a second bag—part of a potpourri of new fees that reflect a struggling airline industry passing along record fuel prices to passengers in the form of higher fares, fuel surcharges and service charges.

Wall Street closes up but off highs as oil rises

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street gave up a big early advance as the price of oil rose Thursday, with stocks closing moderately higher but also demonstrating how anxious investors are about inflation and the overall health of the economy. The Dow rose 57.81, or 0.48 percent, to 12,141.58 after being up as much as 185 points earlier.

Oil prices rebound

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices rebounded from a steep early loss to end modestly higher Thursday in another volatile session fueled by a rising dollar and concerns about supplies. Gas prices reached new record at the pump, rising to a national average of $4.06 a gallon, and are likely to keep rising.

Light, sweet crude for July delivery rose 36 cents to settle at $136.74 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Prices recovered from an earlier dip as low as $131.55 on reports that Nigeria's state owned oil company will take over oil operations in parts of the country from a Royal Dutch Shell PLC joint venture, a move traders believe could cut output. Analysts said word of a possible strike by Nigerian oil workers contributed to oil's $5 rally from the day's lows, as did psychological factors: When prices failed to drop all the way to $131, many investors took that as a sign to buy.

Some analysts said gasoline futures appeared to lead the rally; rumors of refinery outages may have contributed to gas' gains. July gasoline futures rose 6.02 cents to settle at $3.526 a gallon.

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One Month Free Access and Unlimited Local SMS.

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Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

CDC: Salmonella-tainted tomato illnesses reach 228

WASHINGTON (AP)—The toll from salmonella-tainted tomatoes jumped to 228 illnesses Thursday as the government learned of five dozen previously unknown cases and said it is possible the food poisoning contributed to a cancer patient's death. Six more states—Florida, Georgia, Missouri, New York, Tennessee and Vermont—reported illnesses related to the outbreak, bringing the number of affected states to 23. The Food and Drug Administration has not pinpointed the source of the outbreak.

Calif. wildfires threaten homes, force evacuations

FELTON, Calif. (AP)—Hundreds of firefighters struggled to gain control of a series of wildfires burning across Northern California on Thursday, including a raging forest fire that forced hundreds to leave their homes in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The blaze in the Bonny Doon area about 10 miles northwest of Santa Cruz quickly grew to 700 acres after it broke around 3 p.m. Wednesday, and it was only 5 percent contained Thursday morning. It was unclear how many structures had been damaged, fire officials said. Evacuations were ordered for 500 residents in the heavily forested hills. Voluntary evacuations were in place for another 1,000 residents.

107-year-old NH man to lead Andover alumni parade

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—A 107-year-old man who once turned down a job offer from Thomas Edison has been chosen to lead a parade at the Massachusetts prep school he graduated from 90 years ago. C. Yardley Chittick of Concord is the last surviving member of the class of 1918 at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass. "I'm honored a lot these days," said Chittick, who is scheduled to lead the alumni parade Saturday for the third year. "It's only taken me this long to be recognized." An uncle sent Chittick, who grew up in New Jersey, to Andover to prepare him to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Kansas tornadoes kill two, devastate town

CHAPMAN, Kan. (AP)—In a town devastated by a tornado that snapped utility poles and reduced houses and business to rubble, Brad Homman's reaction epitomized optimism: "We've still got half the town intact."

Homman, director of administration and emergency services for Dickinson County, will need that kind of attitude to help bring the community back.

The twister tore a path of destruction six blocks wide through the town of 1,400 people about 140 miles west of Kansas City on Wednesday.

Officials said one woman died, 100 homes were destroyed or heavily damaged, and 80 percent of the town had at least minor damage.

Elsewhere in Kansas, tornadoes caused extensive damage at Kansas State University in Manhattan and killed one person in the tiny town of Soldier.

Names of the storm's victims had not been released.

But nowhere was hit as hard as Chapman, where the tornado left some survivors with vivid—and frightening—memories.

About 100 people huddled in two locker rooms in the school district's gymnasium for shelter as the tornado roared over them.

Construction worker Zac Arensman shielded his 4-year-old stepdaughter with his body after abandoning his family's nearby trailer home. After the twister passed, he and others used a dislodged door as a stretcher to carry to safety a man who had been trapped in his car, one of three people authorities said had been critically injured.

Campaign: Michelle Obama never used the word 'whitey'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrat Barack Obama's campaign said Thursday that Michelle Obama never used the word "whitey" in a speech from the church pulpit as it launched a Web site to debunk rumors about him and his wife.

The rumor that Michelle Obama railed against "whitey" in a diatribe at Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ has circulated on conservative Republican blogs for weeks and was repeated by radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh. The rumor included claims of a videotape of the speech that would be used to bring down Obama's candidacy this fall.

"No such tape exists," the campaign responds on the site, http://www.fightthesmears.com . "Michelle Obama has not spoken from the pulpit at Trinity and has not used that word."

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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF:	**FCD AD NO. 08-0310**
GEMMA KATHLEEN SIMMS (currently known as Kiana Rose Manglona)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:	
MARY MELISSA LIM	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 26, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 12th day of June, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 14, 1999

Better investment incentives pushed

A comprehensive analysis on the CNMI economy has recommended several steps, including better investment incentives, to prepare the island for possible catastrophe in the event of a pullout of the garment industry and continued decline in the tourism business.

In a draft of the report of the economic summit held last March on Saipan, economic analysts believe it will be difficult for the island government to develop other industries to replace the apparel sector, which has increasingly become its main source of revenues.

Astronaut Mukai touches down

When Japanese Astronaut Chiaki Mukai boarded the Space Shuttle, she gazed down the earth and wondered when she would have the chance to visit a tropical island in Micronesia one day.

Well, her wish was finally granted. Mukai, a heart surgeon, arrived on the island yesterday to become the keynote speaker in a nursing convention and a high school graduation. She was accompanied by National Science Development Agency Director Hideshi Kozawa.

Guest workers make up 79 percent of CNMI's labor pool

The Northern Marianas remains heavily dependent on imported labor as non-US citizens still make up the biggest chunk or 79 percent of the combined 43,652 workforce on the island in the first quarter of 1999, according to a report released by the Department of Commerce.

In contrast, US citizens supplied only 21 percent of the manpower in the labor force in the CNMI, the quarterly report says.

June 14, 2000

Scrap 3-year limit on foreign workers

The Legislature should lift the three-year stay limit imposed on nonresident workers and allow companies to hire them on a two-year contract in an effort to help existing businesses while cutting down redtape on labor processing.

But it should retain the resident worker fair compensation law since it would provide equity to locals who are working in the same category with guest workers, but do not receive benefits such as subsidized housing and transportation provided to their counterparts.

CUC faces another protest

Saipan Power Partners/Hawaiian Electric Inc. has joined the protests against selection of Enron as contractor of the controversial 80-megawatt power project as it sought scrapping of the "conditional" award to give way to another round of bidding.

It also demanded from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation reimbursement for hundreds of thousands of dollars spent in preparing proposals during the three-year procurement process.

Goodbye, Fr. Bradley

Catholic Priest Gary Bradley, S.J., will be laid to rest today at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery at 2:00 p.m. immediately after the Mass of Christian Burial at Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

His body will be brought to Kristo Rai Parish for an 8:00 a.m. mass today, and will be transferred to Mt. Carmel Cathedral for viewing and Rosary.

June 14, 2001

Graduates warned of CNMI's gloomy future

CNMI's graduates are in danger of walking into the Commonwealth's worst economic condition if moves to rectify the existing crisis are not taken.

The warning came from Duty Free Shoppers Saipan President Marian Aldan-Pierce, who delivered the keynote address to more than 500 of Hopwood Junior High School graduates yesterday.

Theft, robbery top juvenile crimes

The Division of Youth Services yesterday reported an alarming number of theft and robbery incidents involving juveniles, with an eight-year old boy included in the list of offenders.

Theft and robbery cases involving minors soared in May with 21 incidents out of 45 juvenile crimes recorded last month. Truancy and other juvenile offenses have reportedly dropped in the same period.

According to the DYS Juvenile Probation Unit Monthly Statistics Report, three teeners were arrested last month on charges of curfew violation and conspiring for purse snatching.

World

Parents of China quake victims express anger

BEICHUAN COUNTY, China (AP)—Hundreds of grieving parents blocked the road into a flattened town Thursday as police sought to quell a rising wave of public anger over schools that collapsed in an earthquake a month ago and killed thousands of children.

Volunteers were detained, schools were cordoned off, and reporters were barred from the premises in at least two other towns in a sign of the government's resolve in controlling the media and potential unrest.

Despite assurances by authorities that unfettered coverage would be allowed, dozens of police and paramilitary troops guarded the gate of Juyuan's destroyed middle school as a crowd of about 50 gathered outside. Outside a primary school in Dujiangyan, police and soldiers also stood guard to keep out parents and journalists.

The security measures underscore how much the public fury over the deaths of so many children is unnerving Chinese authorities. Their attempts to rein it in contrast sharply with the relative openness Olympics-conscious Beijing displayed at the start of the disaster.

Across the quake zone, tempers flared among parents as they marked the one-month anniversary of the May 12 quake.

Armed robbers steal 2 Picasso prints in Brazil

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)—Three armed robbers stole two Pablo Picasso prints from an art museum in downtown Sao Paulo on Thursday, the city's second high-profile art theft in less than a year.

The bandits also took two oil paintings by well-known Brazilian artists Emiliano Di Cavalcanti and Lasar Segall, said Carla Regina, a spokeswoman for the Pinacoteca do Estado museum.

The Picasso prints stolen were "The Painter and the Model" from 1963 and "Minotaur, Drinker and Women" from 1933, according to a statement from the Sao Paulo Secretary of State for Culture, which oversees the museum.

The prints and paintings have a combined value of $612,000, the statement and a museum official said.

About noon, three armed men paid the $2.45 entrance fee and immediately went to the second-floor gallery where the works were being exhibited, bypassing more valuable pieces, authorities said.

"This indicates to us that they probably received an order" to take those specific works, Youssef Abou Chain, head of Sao Paulo's organized crime unit, told reporters at a news conference

The assailants overpowered three unarmed museum guards and grabbed the works, officials said. The robbery took about 10 minutes and the museum was nearly empty at the time.

The assailants took the pieces—frames and all—out of the museum in two bags. The institution has no metal detectors.

Tokyo stabbing melee was foretold on Internet posts

TOKYO (AP)—To most of Japan, the deadly stabbings in Tokyo were an incomprehensible act of sudden and indiscriminate violence.

But to readers of an obscure Web site called "Extreme Exchange, Revised," the attack in a popular shopping district that left seven dead Sunday was foretold.

The suspect sent messages saying he wanted to kill somebody, anybody, and apparently hoped to be stopped. But his words were lost in a million postings.

Police refused to comment on how, or when, they learned of Tomohiro Kato's postings. But Japanese news reports Thursday said the suspect told prosecutors under questioning that he deliberately hinted at his bloody plans on the Internet in the hope someone would see them and stop him.

Within hours of his arrest, news of Kato's Internet activity began to surface and access to the Extreme Exchange site—the bulletin board to which Kato sent postings from his cell phone—was quickly restricted by the site operator.

WORLD BRIEFS

Zimbabwe police haul in opposition's top leaders

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—President Robert Mugabe's regime struck at his rivals Thursday only two weeks before Zimbabwe's presidential runoff, twice detaining his challenger and jailing the No. 2 opposition leader to face treason charges. The U.S. ambassador, meanwhile, said 20 tons of American food aid heading to impoverished Zimbabwean children had been seized by authorities last week and given to Mugabe supporters at a rally. The repeated detentions, coupled with Western accusations that Mugabe's regime is using food as a weapon, dramatically demonstrate the obstacles to the campaign thrown up by the longtime leader.

Bush disagrees with court's Guantanamo ruling

ROME (AP)—President Bush on Thursday strongly disagreed with a Supreme Court ruling that clears foreign terrorism suspects at Guantanamo Bay to challenge their detention in U.S. civilian courts. Bush suggested new legislation may now be needed to keep the American people safe. "We'll abide by the court's decision," Bush said during a news conference in Rome. "That doesn't mean I have to agree with it." In its third rebuke of the Bush administration's treatment of prisoners, the court ruled 5-4 that the government is violating the rights of prisoners being held indefinitely and without charges at the U.S. naval base in Cuba. The court's liberal justices were in the majority.

UN warns Myanmar funds appeal short of target

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II, Bill Gates, J.K. Rowling and a clutch of Hollywood stars have all given generously to help Myanmar's cyclone victims, but the U.N. says government donations for its relief effort are falling short. The United Nations said Thursday it has received just over half the money it requested for cyclone relief in Myanmar, with some nations apparently delaying their donations because of concerns about the junta's restrictions on foreign aid workers. The U.N. set a goal of $201.6 million for its relief efforts but has received only $113.2 million, or 56 percent, from government donors, it said. Some $51 million in pledges has yet to delivered, the U.N. said.

2 UK soldiers killed in Afghanistan

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Ministry of Defense says two British soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan. A spokesman says the two men were hit by enemy fire while patrolling the area around their base in the Upper Gereshk Valley. He says a third soldier was also injured in Thursday's attack. The men served in the 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment. On Sunday, three soldiers serving in the same unit were killed in an attack in the Upper Sangin Valley. At least 102 soldiers British soldiers have now died in Afghanistan since the 2001 invasion by the U.S and its allies.

Maharlika – PinoyNews

GARAPAN CENTRAL PARK

Ground zero for Pistang Pinoy

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This year's Pistang Pinoy celebration will be seeing a new home.

From the Susupe Civic Center, where the annual event used to be held, organizers of tomorrow's festivities have decided to hold the Pistang Pinoy at the Garapan Central Park.

The celebration, set to start at 9am tomorrow, is part of the Filipino community's celebration of their country's 110th Independence Day.

The Philippine Consulate General, in collaboration with the United Filipino Organizations, have lined up an array of games and activities for both children and adults for this Sunday's celebration.

UFO chairman Ed Reyes and Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL Maximo are inviting the entire Saipan community to the Sunday event.

"We are looking forward to at least a thousand people this Sunday, but we expect more than that. I just want to call on the locals, the Filipinos, and the entire community to come on down and join us at this fun occasion," Reyes said.

He said there would be at least 16 food vendors at the Pistang Pinoy, selling various kinds of food and drinks.

UFO president Flor A. Miranda highlighted the importance of the day ahead as a chance for all overseas Filipino workers worldwide "to enjoy our country's freedom."

In a recently released statement, Secretary of the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment Marianito D. Roque said the 110th Philippine Independence Day "is an occasion to reflect on the great triumph of the Filipino nation over years of oppression."

"As we celebrate our independence, I acknowledge our workers including those overseas, for always being actively involved in efforts to preserve and protect our hard-earned freedom."

Sunday's guests will include Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, and Maximo.

Members of the UFO and the Philippine Consulate General would like to extend their appreciation to this year's Pistang Pinoy major sponsors: Pacific Telecommunications Inc., Western Union, Coca-Cola and Budweiser.

FLAG-RAISING AP
Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, second from right, leads other officials in a flag-raising ceremony to celebrate the 110th anniversary of Philippine Independence Thursday, June 12, 2008 at the Rizal Park in Manila.

OFW remittances rise 18.4% in April

MANILA (Inquirer.net)—Money sent home through banks by overseas-based Filipinos rose 18.4 percent to $1.4 billion in April from a year earlier, much faster than the 9.4-percent increase recorded in March, central bank data showed on Friday.

The inflows in April brought total remittances in the first four months of the year to $5.4 billion, up 14.5 percent from the same period last year.

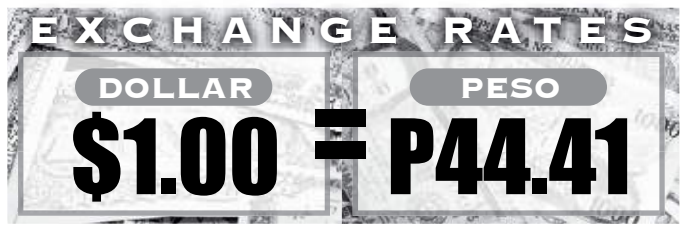
The number of Filipinos who left for work abroad in the first four months rose 14 percent to 399,638, the central bank said in a statement, citing government figures.

"Prospects of deployment remain upbeat given the country's efficient deployment system and continued bilateral talks for employment opportunities with other labor-importing countries such as Canada," central bank governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Around eight million Filipinos or a tenth of the population are working as nurses and caregivers, domestic helpers, merchant seamen, entertainers and engineers abroad and sending money that boost consumer spending at home.

The central bank figures do not include money sent through informal channels or outside the banking system.

The central bank expects total remittances coursed through banks this year to reach a record $15.7 billion, up 9.0 percent from last year's $14.4 billion.



Journalist freed, 2 other remain captive

JOLO, Philippines (INQUIRER.net)—One of three TV journalists abducted by suspected Moro extremists was freed in the southern Philippines late Thursday.

ABS-CBN cameraman Angelo Valderama was released around 7:30 p.m. to Sulu Vice Governor Lady Ann Sahidula, said Undersecretary Amilasan Amilbajar of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Mindanao.

But prominent anchorwoman Ces Drilon and cameraman Jimmy Encarnacion were still in captivity, along with a Mindanao State University professor who had acted as their local guide.

The four were abducted on Sunday as they were heading to interview some Abu Sayyaf leaders.

"But this is a positive development...we're happy even if one person only (had been released)," Chief Superintendent Joel Goltiao, police commander of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, told INQUIRER.net.

From Sahidula, Valderama was brought to the home of Indanan town mayor Isnaji Alvarez, the chief negotiator, in Sulu around 9:30 p.m., Goltiao said.

Amilbajar said a P2-million "board and lodging fee" was paid in exchange for his freedom.

"These funds came from the two negotiators. These funds are their campaign funds," Amilbajar said.

'Say it in English, please'

By TARRA QUISMUNDO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The pleas posted on the walls of the school lobby spell out the name of the game in the age of globalization: "Say it in English, please."

A chat with a student on the STI (Systems Technology Institute) College campus at Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City shows that the campaign is working.

"It is an advantage because I know that when I work, I will encounter foreigners," says Christy Cardines, 16, speaking in English, the language of global commerce.

"Most of our students are graduates of public schools and incoming first year college students have communication skills of a Grade 4 student," says Peter Fernandez, STI chief operating officer.

"We help them adapt to the courses. What we want to do is improve their communication skills and raise their confidence level … Even the simple thing of teaching them how to use chopsticks raises their confidence," says Elbert de Guzman, an STI vice president.

Jobs-skills mismatch

Philippine colleges have been attempting to cope with a global demand for skilled workers, mostly in healthcare and information technology (IT) amid a crisis in the basic education system.

This demand requires proficiency in English, Science and Math—something that private businesses and government are trying to raise in a basic education system that has deteriorated through the years.

Few of the graduates of the public school system are able to proceed and complete a college degree and for them facilities that offer skills training that will land them jobs are the preferred alternatives.

Today, there is a so-called jobs-skills mismatch, a phenomenon of thousands of work available with few qualified workers—nurses, caregivers, call center agents, medical transcriptionists and IT workers.

? LABOR FRONT

Workers' contract, wage rates, worksite

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: Can an alien worker get a two-year contract from his or her employer?

A: According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, an employer and employee may agree on a two-year term, provided that a foreign national worker employed under a two-year contract must provide an additional health certification within the first month of the second year under the contract.

The usually approved employment contract for alien workers provides for a one-year term. Employers with special needs or specialty jobs may contract for a shorter period of time than one year.

On the other hand, part-time employment is employment at will and has no set term. However, part-time employment may not continue beyond the foreign national worker's eligibility under an approved employment contract to remain in the CNMI.

■■■

Q: What are the wage rates for alien workers?

A: The Regulations state that wages should be stated in hourly terms unless the foreign national worker is overtime-exempt, in which case wages should be stated in bi-weekly terms. The wages of domestic helpers and farmers should be stated in hourly terms.

No foreign national worker employed pursuant to the Regulations should be paid less than the minimum wage provided by law. An approved employment contract should provide that any future increase in the applicable minimum wage prior to the termination of the contract should apply to work performed under the contract on or after the effective date of the increase.

■■■

Q: What does the Regulations say about the location of the worksite for alien workers?

A: A foreign national worker may have one or more work sites. However, the Regulations state, a worker may be assigned on only one island. The island where a foreign national worker may be assigned to work must be stated in the approved employment contract or in an approved change to the employment contract.

Assigning a foreign national worker to work in a location not specified in the approved employment contact or in an approved contract change is a ground for denial of a renewal of the contracts of any foreign national workers in that job classification.

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune *will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to* Saipan Tribune *via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.*

AP PHOTO/BULLIT MARQUEZ

A giant Philippine flag is raised during a ceremony to celebrate the 110th anniversary of Philippine Independence Thursday, June 12, 2008 at the Rizal Park in Manila.

Muslim rebels free two RP marines

By TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim rebels freed two Philippine marines they had lured to a meeting about a possible surrender and then seized as hostages to demand the release of a guerrilla commander's nephew, officials said Friday.

Philippine navy spokesman Lt. Col. Edgard Arevalo said the corporals, Jessie Duatin and Bernie Alcabasa, were released pre-dawn Friday to marine officials on southern Basilan island without ransom or concession to their Moro Islamic Liberation Front captors.

They were taken at gunpoint Tuesday by rebels led by Commander Malat Sulaiman to demand the release of his nephew, Salih Dungkal Alih, the navy said.

Alih was arrested last week in Basilan's Lamitan township as a suspected member of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group, and has been implicated in the beheadings last year of 14 marines.

Rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu confirmed Sulaiman was a commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has been holding peace negotiations with the government.

In a telephone interview Kabalu said Sulaiman will be investigated and dealt with in accordance with the guidelines of a joint cease-fire committee.

Arevalo said Sulaiman's sister—who is Alih's mother—persuaded him to free the marines.

A navy statement Thursday said Alih may have been erroneously arrested because his name differs slightly from one on the arrest warrant in the al-Qaida-linked beheadings. Arevalo said his release will be up to the court.

The navy said the marines had been responding to surrender feelers by Sulaiman and were going to meet an emissary.

"But on their way to the appointed place, the marine personnel were halted at gunpoint, taken forcibly and detained," a navy statement said.

The military will file a protest with the rebels through the cease-fire committee despite the men's release, Arevalo said.

'110 years later, RP is not truly free yet'

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The outspoken chief justice of the Philippine Supreme Court said Thursday the country is still not truly free more than a century after Filipino revolutionaries declared independence from Spain.

In a speech marking the Philippines' 110th Independence Day, Chief Justice Reynato Puno said the country has failed to measure up as a free and independent nation based own its poor human rights record.

He also said modern-day "economic colonizers" are now "dictating how we should run our political and economic life." He was referring to wealthy nations that "craft regulations on world trade."

He said civil, political, social and economic rights, as well as right to environment—the components of human rights—are what "everyone needs to live in dignity."

He said "extralegal killings and enforced disappearances" continue to plague the country, and most of the victims are critics of the government, including journalists, he said.

Turning to the country's economic situation, he said "perhaps this is where the people have the least rights," citing widespread poverty.

"That is the reason why many of our countrymen leave the Philippines because of the uncertain future they see here in our country," he said.

"Poverty has been a big blow to our people's freedom," he said. "A person who has no home, no education, who has nothing to eat, and no clean water to drink can never say he is empowered in his own country."

Since his appointment as chief justice in December 2006, Puno has been praised for strong views on human rights not only in the Philippines but also elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

US court rules vs victims over $35M Marcos money

WASHINGTON—The US Supreme Court ruled on Thursday against nearly 10,000 victims of human rights abuses during the regime of Philippine ruler Ferdinand Marcos in a dispute over $35 million in an account held by the late dictator.

The decision was a victory for the government in Manila, which had argued the dispute over the money must be dismissed from the US court system and should be settled in Philippine courts.

The justices overturned a ruling by a US appeals court based in California that had sided with the victims. The high court decided the case must be dismissed.

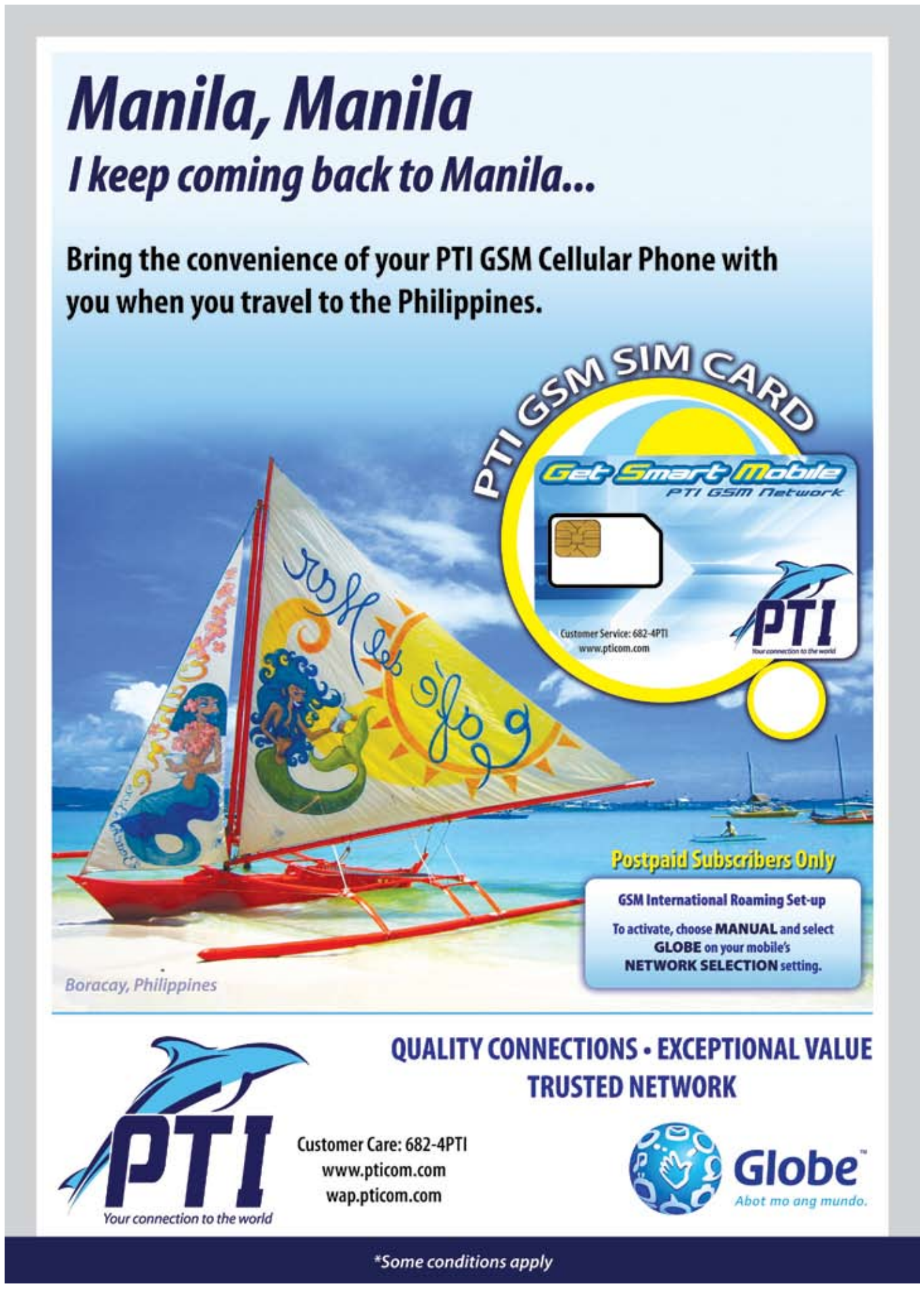
Marcos, who ruled the Philippines for two decades until his overthrow in a "people power" uprising in 1986, and his family are accused of stealing up to $10 billion from the Philippines. Only a fraction of that amount has been recovered.

The dispute involved a New York brokerage account at Merrill Lynch & Co that Marcos set up in 1972 in the name of a suspected dummy corporation with a $2 million deposit.

The amount in the account has grown to more than $35 million. The shares of the suspected dummy corporation have been held in escrow by a Philippine bank until the courts in that country rule on ownership.

Lawyers for the victims argued they should get the $35 million as part of a $2 billion judgment in US courts against the Marcos estate over human rights abuses under his rule.

Marcos, a key ally to the United States in Asia during Cold War fears of expanding communism, died in Hawaii in 1989.



Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Rudy Fernandez laid to rest

By ABIGAIL KWOK
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—To the end, actor Rudy Fernandez was well loved.

The action star, fondly called "Daboy," was finally laid to rest Thursday as hundreds of friends, fans, and family members mourned his loss after a two-year battle with periampullary cancer.

"We love you Daboy! We will miss you!" fans shouted as the actor was buried at the Heritage Park in Taguig City.

Fans were not allowed to enter the memorial park and had to content themselves watching scenes unfold on top of the walls and on 10-wheeler trucks.

Fernandez was buried by hundreds of close friends and relatives at 3:05 p.m.

Earlier in the day, a necrological service was held at the nearby chapel that was attended by family, led by his wife and actress Lorna Tolentino, and close friends, who were all dressed in white.

Fernandez

Father Sonny Ramirez officiated the Mass, saying Fernandez was finally saved from the "beating" he took from cancer.

"His body cannot take anymore the beating of this world and this is the day to glorify God for the eternal life due to Rudy," he said.

Ramirez also told Fernandez's widow, Tolentino, to "be happy."

"Yung [The] love na binigay sa iyo ni Daboy [that Daboy has given you] should be shared," he said.

Ramirez also told Fernandez's sons Ralph and Renz to "take care of their mom because you are all she's got."

Tolentino, with Fernandez's closest friends Senators Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. and Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada, actors Philip Salvador and Tirso Cruz III, were emotional throughout the interment. Tolentino repeatedly kissed her late husband's casket as she said goodbye.

Fernandez's casket was placed inside a horse-drawn carriage bedecked with white roses. Tolentino, her sons, Alma Moreno and her son with Rudy, Mark Anthony Fernandez; and other family members marched 50 meters from the chapel to the burial grounds amid the heat.

The late action star was given full military honors, being a reservist in the Philippine Navy. A 12-gun salute accompanied the actor's burial. The Philippine flag wrapped around the casket of Fernandez was handed to his widow, who clutched onto it tightly.

Doves were also set free after the burial.

Former president Joseph Estrada also joined the burial procession.

In a statement, Estrada said Fernandez's death was a "great loss to the movie industry."

He said Fernandez was "not only a fellow actor but a true friend of the family, especially to my son Jinggoy," referring to Senator Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada, considered one of the actor's closest friends, along with Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. and actor Philip Salvador.

He said it was only fitting that Fernandez be buried on Independence Day "because to his family, friends and fans, he was a personal hero who will be remembered forever."

Tolentino refused media interviews, but expressed her appreciation to the thousands of fans who condoled with the family.

"Maraming maraming salamat sa inyo [Thank you very, very much]," she said.

Mark Anthony Fernandez also expressed his thanks.

"Mahal na mahal namin si daddy [We love daddy very much] and I'm sure he's very happy right now," he said.

There's life after 'Wowowee'

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—For Precious Lara Quigaman, there's life after "Wowowee." She's all agog preparing for a pageant that will revolutionize the industry.

"The controversy has made me learn how to speak up for what's right even if I'm up against influential people," she says.

How has it affected her BF who's pinpointed as one of the reasons why she was axed from the show? "He was quite mad and felt guilty after being blamed for following me in our US show. As much as he wanted to confront the person who treated me badly, he's being a gentleman about it."

Is she still willing to go back to the show? "I cannot work in a show where I'm not welcome and unwritten rules are implemented," she laments.

Precious Lara Quigaman on the cover of a *Metro* magazine.

As far as Lara knows, she broke no rule and yet a part of her heart got broken.

La Vida Luna

Pauleen Luna is not getting impatient waiting for her big break. "I'm not starving. If it comes, it comes," she says. "Besides I'm too happy with my love life and my career."

She's busy as the endorser of Renew Placenta herbal beauty products. What's her opinion about the trouble between the owners of the product and its former image model Melanie Marquez? "I'm not involved so I'd rather not comment," she says.

With her Placenta glow, Pauleen is ripe to pose for FHM but she's still hesitant. "The time will come for that."

She's in no rush to get ahead because she's enjoying where she is right now.

Back in town

Dingdong Avanzado and Jessa Zaragosa are back in town. But not to get back at Rufa Mae Quinto for her allegations that Jessa snatched Dingdong away from her, many heartaches ago.

"What she said was totally unfair and inaccurate," says Dingdong, who would rather focus on the celebrity golf tournament his company (Matua Agupa) is mounting in Guam and their US concert tour after he celebrates his birthday here next month.

Will they entertain thoughts of crossing paths with Rufa Mae anytime soon? Mum mom

Lani Mercado would rather ignore talk that Lovi Poe's mom doesn't approve of Jolo Revilla for her daughter. She also refuses to comment about the rumored gap between the Revillas and her daughter Inah's in-laws. "Let there peace among us all." Now that's one mum Mom.

'Poohkwang'

Pokwang cried while watching the movie "Sex and the City." "Naiyak ako kasi Ingles. Wala akong maintindihan," she says. Such is her sense of humor. The comedienne can laugh about herself unabashedly. Catch her with Pooh in Asap Live's "Poohkwang," Fridays and Saturdays of June, 8 p.m. at the Music Museum. Let the laughter begin! Laugh ko 'to!

Gabby's case

I heard Gabby Concepcion's lawyer in "Saksi" saying that Gabo's marriage contract to Sharon Cuneta was antedated, making their union null and void from the start. So goes his defense in Gabby's bigamy case. That was also the case in my civil marriage. But I still had to file for annulment. The antedated document didn't help much. Maybe Gabo should ask his Dear Heart what to do now.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Save money; save the earth

This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: There is much talk about global warming and how it can affect our children's future. Closer to home, we have seen rivers die and landfills becoming mountains of trash over the years. We'd like to set a good example to our own kids and do our share in helping save the environment. What can we do in that end without having to shell out a lot of cash? — Jun

Answer: All over the world, more and more people are becoming aware of the need to do something about our environment. Our own parents bear witness to the fact that the rivers they have swum in when they were young have "died" or are on the road to death. Forest areas have been decreasing over the years as people pursue mining, urban development and housing, leading to erosion and flooding. Mountains have become bald and polar caps have been melting.

There is a lot we can do to help preserve and save our environment. Below are our environment-friendly tips that won't create a dent in your budget; you may save on costs too.

At home

1. After doing the laundry, air-dry clothes instead of putting them in the dryer.
2. When not using appliances, unplug them. Appliances on standby mode (such as TV or computers) also use up electricity.
3. When reading, sit by the window to avail of natural light.
4. Do your ironing in one batch.
5. Recycle what you can: softdrink cans, PET bottles, paper, cartons, newspapers, empty printer ink cartridges and even cellphone batteries. Bring these to the junk shop or recycle markets and you may even get cash in return.
6. Pay your bills online or through the phone. Not only will you not have to go to the bank to do this transaction; you will save on time, energy, and gas as well. And if you go paperless and request that your bills be sent by e-mail, you'll help save a lot of trees to be cut up for paper use.
7. Use more energy-efficient light bulbs and appliances. There is an energy efficiency ratio on appliances in the market: The higher it is, the better. In computers, the newer processors use up less power but perform better.
8. Use gray water (example: water used in cooking) for gardening.
9. Have your toilet fitted with a dual-flush mechanism to save on water.

When shopping

1. Use a *bayong* or reusable cloth bag when doing your shopping. Plastic bags will cost the stores more and will just end up in landfills. Nowadays, supermarkets encourage the use of reusable bags and some even offer incentives (such as free items) for their use.
2. Plan your shopping trips so you won't have to go back and forth and waste gas and fare money.
3. Buy products with biodegradable packaging if you can.
4. Consider buying second-hand items such as furniture and books.

When traveling

1. Use public transport or carpool with other people to save on gas and energy.
2. Have your car tuned up regularly and the tires inflated to the right amount of pressure. This will help your car perform at its best, enabling you to get more mileage out of your gas.
3. For short distances, walk instead of ride. Save on gas and don't add to the pollution.
4. Consider switching to a more environment-friendly fuel. A lot of taxis now fill up using LPG gas which cost less. There is also a form of unleaded gas that is kinder to the environment.
5. Book your plane tickets online. E-ticketing will help save on paper.
6. Use a digital camera instead of a disposable camera. It will be cheaper in the long run and you won't contribute to the items to be dumped in landfills.

In the office

1. Print or photocopy on both sides of the paper.
2. Use recycled paper for scratch pads.
3. Instead of buying new printer ink cartridges each time they are empty, have them refilled.
4. Use mugs instead of disposable cups for coffee.
5. Turn off computers, printers, paper shredders, and photo copying machines when not in use.
6. Instead of buying mineral water by the bottle at your office canteen, purchase a 5-gallon bottle from a water refilling station, then just bring water to the office using a jug.
7. During your next summer getaway, suggest a tree-planting activity or beach clean-up time for all employees.
8. Suggest a telecommuting option for employees. A lot of office work can be done at home. Working at home will help you save gas and money and may even inspire you with the change in routine.

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. If we all do our share in saving the environment, our children and our children's children will benefit the rewards of a greener planet.

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Maharlika – Opinyon

A predatory attitude against foreigners

PASSION FOR REASON

By RAUL PANGALANGAN
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com.

MANILA, Philippines—A decade ago, my son played soccer for his grade school team. Once, they were playing against a team with mostly foreign kids. I recall that in the heat of the contest, some fellow Filipino parents, while cheering on the kids, protested the referee's call and wondered aloud why the referee would call a foul against his "kapwa Pilipino" [fellow Filipino]. One called the referee "bulag" [blind], the ref walked out briefly, and in that interval, that parent asked me to be his advocate. I politely declined. This was a soccer game, for heaven's sake. It's a sport. Why pounce on the referee with such hostility, with such an unsporting attitude? Why should nationality matter when the kids just wanted to play football? And what lesson do we teach our kids if we ask for a rigged contest? Nationalism is a convenient trump card, but how low can we go?

Over this past summer vacation, I witnessed quite often a familiar scene at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Filipinos were indifferent to foreigners, especially those who didn't speak English, or who couldn't even answer their Arrival Cards or find the right queue at Immigration. Occasionally I would see good Samaritans who would volunteer to help, and I would try to do my own bit to help. Once, I saw an old Chinese couple completely at a loss on what to do next when they disembarked—though at another time, an innocent Korean teenager found her Arrival Card incomprehensible, and mercifully several Filipinos pitched in to translate.

But generally the attitude from both government officials and ordinary citizens was "Why should I care?" With public officers, this was no surprise; after all, if they can be cold and uncaring to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), who bankroll the republic, why expect them to show any more sympathy for aliens? (I have seen excited OFWs sent to the back of the immigration line simply because they failed to fill in some parts of their Arrival Card.) But why has the same mind-set persisted with the common folk? Shouldn't they see themselves in the hapless alien, especially since millions of Filipinos toil under even more hostile conditions abroad?

Yesterday we celebrated our Independence Day, and I think one explanation can be traced to that big event 110 years ago. Historically we have been victimized by foreign conquerors, carpetbaggers and other opportunists, and we have come to see the foreigner as "the enemy," to be overcome and defeated in return. This attitude is outdated, misinformed and unfortunate.

To use the jargon of international law, it defines independence in terms of "external self-determination" and ignores the imperatives of "internal self-determination." Today the enemy is not the predatory foreigner. The enemy is our rapacious and heartless fellow Filipinos.

At several points during the whistleblower Jun Lozada's testimony and interviews, I was struck that the most scandalous clauses in the national broadband network (NBN) contract of ZTE Corp. were inserted at the request of the Filipino side, not of the Chinese. In other words, it was the Philippine government contingent that looked for ways to circumvent our anti-corruption laws, and the Chinese merely played along. It was the Filipino side that kept on jacking up the price of the project, way above the original estimates discussed with the Chinese. I can imagine them thinking: If this is how these low-life govern themselves, then who are we to object?

The stereotype of the foreigner as the enemy today is way off the mark because we have bred our own indigenous species of tyrants and thieves. But worse, while before we could blame US imperialism for inflicting on us the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship, today what we have is our homegrown creation. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was enthroned by People Power. She remains in the Palace because a whole nation has chosen to look the other way, despite the Garci tapes, the Joc-Joc Bolante fertilizer scam, the ZTE-NBN scandal, the IMPSA power plant project controversy, etc. We have no one to blame but ourselves that today we have truly "a government run like hell by Filipinos."

Yet, this doesn't explain our aloofness to foreigners who do not, and couldn't even be suspected, of being our colonizer. Certainly the xenophobia—the apathy to Chinese traders and, for that matter, to Vietnamese refugees a decade ago and more recently to Korean language students—cannot be explained by the colonial past. Worse it cannot explain the opportunistic stance against tourists of all colors and from all continents, the sense that every tourist is a walking invitation for the next swindle.

I suggest that it is because we assume a Darwinist posture vis-à-vis vulnerable groups, and instead of seeing the foreigner as a fellow prey in the social and political food chain, we see them as potential food. We miss the norms for the facts. We do not realize that all excluded aliens must affirm solidarity with one another—be they Filipino domestic helpers in Singapore (last month, a local paper said that Filipina maids tend to answer back), or an Indian applying for naturalization as a Filipino, or a European planning to spend his retirement pension in our islands.

So when a senator tells the foreign traders, "Get out of the country if you can't live with us!" before we applaud, first let us ask ourselves: What if an OFW is told the same thing by his host country?

EDITORIAL

Pinoy Ex Diaspora

The first International Conference of Filipino as a Global Language was held mid-March this year at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. This gathering was remarkable not because of the promise of another contending language in the global polyglot, another notch in the Babelian speaking-of-tongues, but in the radical shift in the heretofore global in diaspora story of the Filipino people.

The primary image of the Filipino exiting the Philippine archipelago was borrowed from the Moses-led exodus from Egypt during the Conjugal Dictatorship era and that of the dispersed Jewish people who were exiled in Babylon, and later, into the Roman Empire after the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem in 73 CE. With the Zionist triumph in1949 in establishing Israel, the mantra around the world amongst the dispersed remnants of Moses became, "Next year in Jerusalem."

In 1963, US President Kennedy loosened the reins of immigration to allow for the unification of separated families. Filipinos, particularly nationals during the Commonwealth era, lost no time in lining up in front of the U.S. Embassy. Professionals took advantage of the opportunity as well, and pretty soon, every school child aimed to finish schooling so that s/he can also "go abroad."

Going abroad meant many things to various professions, trades and workers. Manual laborers and skilled workers en masse headed toward the Middle East, while their ladies filled the need for nannies in Europe and urban centers. The religious took mission field assignments, and administrative officers staffed international bodies and associations. Entertainers booked themselves with worldwide hotel chains; financial and social service consultants joined the new nomadic tribe of pencil pushers and keyboard punchers.

The globally acclimated yet locally street-smart Pinoy was born. From the Marcos government to the present, s/he was hailed a hero for bailing out the Philippine economy with remittances. For a while, s/he aimed to earn and remit, save and return home. A shift has occurred. Returning home is now only to visit. Many have claimed loyalties beyond the Asian-Pacific shores.

The Philippine government was wise and swift to recognize this shift; it has since recognized the reality of dual citizenships. Pinoys are gearing up and battening down to becoming responsible citizens in their new adopted countries and residences. Their minds and pocketbooks respond to new accountabilities, but their hearts remain attuned to *Inang Bayan* [Motherland]. This will not be so for the subsequent generations.

So for now, yesterday is to be remembered; tomorrow is to be anticipated. But today, in the here and now, wherever Filipinos are, it is celebrated. On the 110th anniversary of the national consciousness journey of the Filipinos, we toast a hearty *Mabuhay!* Or, in the language of those earlier people in diaspora, *L'achaim!* To life!

Still, change

THERE'S THE RUB

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
Philippine Daily Inquirer

I personally am glad Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is meeting with George W. Bush later this month. It reestablishes in the public mind the very close links between those two leaders.

By close links, I mean the uncanny similarities between those two, enough to make one believe, despite the fact that one is ruler of the world and the other ruler only of Lilliput, that they are psychic twins.

Both are the progenies of presidents who became presidents themselves for a couple of terms. Bush by tinkering with the Florida votes the first time—that was how he beat Al Gore—and by winning reasonably cleanly against John Kerry the second time. Arroyo by being swept to power the first time and by cheating the hell out of FPJ the second time.

Both are small and petty and have a huge chip on their shoulders, resentful of the fact that before they came to power they had been belittled for being, well, small and petty. Both have an insatiable appetite for power, Bush seeking it for the Neo-Cons and their vision of the United States straddling the world like a colossus, as Cassius said of Caesar, and Arroyo seeking it for herself. Both are detested by their constituents. A CNN/Opinion Research poll last month showed that 71 percent of Americans disapproved of Bush, the first time any American president broke the 70 percent barrier. He has single-handedly provided David Letterman, Jay Leno, Conan O'Brien, Jon Stewart and other talk show hosts no end of material, which was probably what got them through the writers' strike. Arroyo hasn't just broken every barrier in disapproval rating, she has zoomed past them. She is probably more unpopular now than Marcos was then: Marcos at least had the undying loyalty of the Ilocanos (and Imelda the Warays), Arroyo has only the dying loyalty of the Cabalens and the Cebuanos. Or their loyalty does not come from the heart, it comes from the pockets.

Most importantly, both like to lie to their people. If it hadn't been patent before, Bush's former press secretary has made it patent now: Bush lied about the Iraq War. He sent American youths to their deaths in desert sands for reasons that had nothing to do with democracy or freedom. The subtitle of Scott McClellan's book sums it up: "Inside the Bush White House and Washington's Culture of Deception." He might as well have been writing about Malacañang. In Arroyo's case, well, what has she not lied about? The only truth she has ever told is that if she ran in 2004, she would bring unending divisiveness upon this country.

But I am glad Arroyo is meeting with Bush later this month because of an even more compelling or sublime reason. That is the fact that Barack Obama, who has just won the Democratic primaries and will be the next president of America barring an assassination, provides a tremendous contrast—not least for Filipinos to see—between him and them. Right vs. Wrong, Virtue vs. Vice, Hope vs. Despair, Good vs. Evil, Life vs. Death.

Obama's core message is Change, the one thing that Americans want, as shown by the surveys. That is the opposite of the core message of Bush and Arroyo, which is More of the Same. Obama's core thrust is transparency, or telling the truth about the Iraq Invasion and everything else about life to the American people. That is the opposite of the core thrust of Bush and Arroyo, which is to lie unto death.

Indeed, the very core of Obama's existence is hope, the unlikely hero of the story winning in the end, the Hobbit undoing the Evil Eye, the neophyte senator stealing the thunder from everybody else and going on to become the first black president of America. That is the opposite of the very core of Bush's and Arroyo's existence, Bush being one US president who, like Sen. Joseph McCarthy and Richard Nixon, roistered a reign of tyranny and paranoia, and Arroyo being one Filipino president who, like Ferdinand Marcos, stole everything that wasn't nailed to the floor, including the vote and human life. They will, or should, go on, to disappear in the bowels of obscurity or the annals (or anus) of infamy as they richly deserve.

This is one time I won't really mind that we yield to the clutches of "colonial mentality" and imitate, or make "gaya-gaya," as the "coñotics" say, the United States today. We've already pretty much forgotten EDSA People Power, we could do with some new infusions of inspiration, and this is one huge shot of adrenaline in dying veins. By all means let's talk of change and truth and hope too. Even better, let's ape America shamelessly and produce an Obama too.

If we are to take any consolation from the hell on earth that Bush and Arroyo have wrought, it is only in that it has made us, or should make us, hanker for heaven. That is the only good they have done, to be so evil they've left us no choice but to crave good. Without the despair Bush has provoked, America would not have glimpsed the hope Obama invokes. I don't know that we will ever produce an Obama—though I have no doubt we do not lack for people like him, who are to be found however outside the ranks of today's politicians. But I have little doubt that the hell Arroyo's long and despotic rule has brought us will have us hankering for heaven too. When that rule is over-and it won't be so unless we move to make it so—we will demand from ourselves never to be plunged to that nightmare again.

When Arroyo and Bush meet later this month, their constituents themselves will have only one agenda: Change.

Samu't Sari

SAGALA 2008

Lemmor and Paulo Cadag strike a pose as they participate in the Fiesta Filipino and Sagala 2008 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan Wednesday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Filipino community members gather inside the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan Wednesday night for the Fiesta Filipino and Sagala 2008.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Filipino community members wave the CNMI and Philippine flags during the Sagala 2008 parade.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Sagala 2008 Reyna Elena's parade along Paseo De Marianas in Garapan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Girls and boys parade in their colorful Filipino traditional gowns and barongs from American Memorial Park to Fiesta Resort and Spa in Garapan for the Fiesta Filipino and Sagala 2008.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CNMI Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo delivers his remarks during the Fiesta Filipino and Sagala 2008 occasion.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The Sagala 2008 and Fiesta Filipino was in observance of the CNMI-Philippine Friendship Week. Sagala or Flores de las Islas, is a 400-year-old Philippine Christian tradition commemorating the finding of Christ's cross by St. Helena and her son Constantine.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

FIESTA FILIPINO

Bayani Association dance troupe perform the native Filipino dance called "salakot" or hat dance during the Fiesta Filipino and Sagala 2008 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan Wednesday night. The event was in observance of the CNMI-Philippine Friendship Week and the 110th Philippine Independence Day.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CNMI Power president Ladyvir Canape and her group hand over the envelope of donation for two (2) Tuloy Aral Scholars for SY 2008-2009 to Consul General Wilfredo Maximo during the turnover last June 1, 2008. This is one of the projects that the group is trying to maintain in spite of the harshness of life nowadays. Also in the picture is Labor Attache Joan Lourdes Lavilla and OWWA Representative Leonor Mabagal.

PUBLIC HEARING

Irene Tantiado, president of the Coalition of United Workers, Jerry Custodio, president of the CNMI Human Dignity Movement, and other members attend the public hearing on House Bill 16-86 at the House Chamber on Capital Hill Thursday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PROCLAMATION SIGNING

Philippine Consul General to the CNMI Wilfredo DL. Maximo and his staff grace the proclamation signing ceremony declaring the week of June 8-14, 2008 as Northern Mariana Islands-Philippines Friendship Week. Gov. Benigno R. Sitial signed the proclamation.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Youngstyle

Giving dad a hand

By MARYLOU TOUSIGNANT
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—With Father's Day approaching fast, Tessa Reagan knows exactly what she'll be giving her dad, and Tim Reagan knows exactly what he'll be getting from his daughter.

Not a tie. Not after-shave. Not a shirt.

Instead, he'll get a Father's Day card with a hand-tracing inside—as he has every year since Tessa was born.

Inside the outline of her now-10-year-old hand, Tessa will have written down all the fun things that she and her dad did in the past year: biking in New York and horseback riding in Colorado ("I'll never forget my father stepping onto the horse with his frightened face and shaky legs"); the plays he staged at her school, where he teaches drama; and the tetherball set she got for her birthday ("We try to kill each other," she says of their fierce rivalry at home in Silver Spring, Md.).

Oh, and their father-daughter white-water rafting trip. "I was frightened to set foot on the blown-up raft," Tessa recalls. "My dad was rowing, and I was sitting right next to him. ... Two women fell out, which made me and my dad nervous."

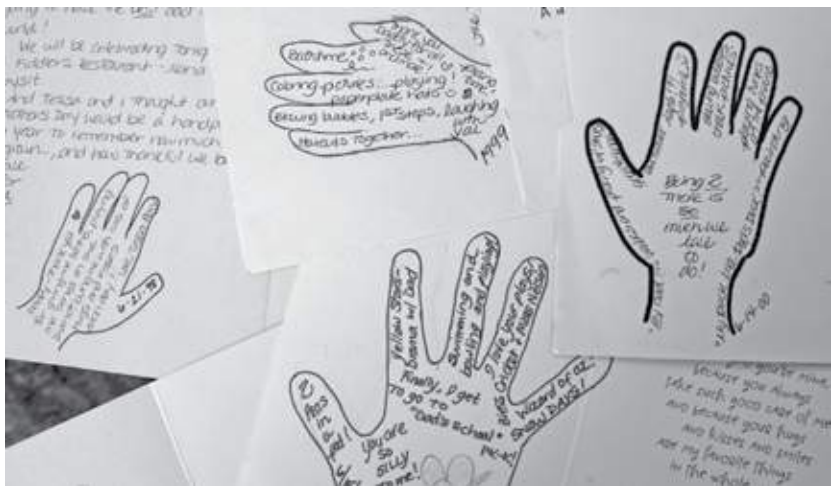
FATHER'S DAY FACT
If every dad in the United States received a tie this Father's Day, together those ties could stretch around the world (at the equator) more than 2 1/2 times!

Tim Reagan keeps two photos of that eventful day on his desk at Sidwell Friends School. Tessa keeps the memories in her heart—and now on paper, inside the outline of her hand.

It was her mom's idea. "As we were becoming parents, we wanted to have some kind of tradition," says Lisa Agogliati, Tessa's mother.

Tessa was 3 months old when Lisa first traced her hand to start their family's Father's Day tradition.

THE WASHINGTON POST
The hand tradition began in 1998 on Tessa and father Tim Reagan's first Father's Day, when Tessa was three months old. Tessa's mom Lisa Agogliati did the honors on the first few cards.



THE WASHINGTON POST
Every year, Tessa Reagan, 10, of Silver Spring, Md., traces her hand and writes special messages inside it for her dad as a Father's Day present. This year is no exception.

"Daddy—Thank you for giving me baths, playing me songs on the piano & loving me with lots of hugs and kisses each day!" Lisa wrote for Tessa. Then she drew a tiny heart on the pinkie finger.

Tim grew up one of nine children and the youngest of five boys. "We never did anything like this for my dad," he says. "We just took it all for granted."

After a few years of receiving Tessa's hand tracings for Father's Day, Tim suggested to his wife that he probably should start keeping them. She told him she already had, that the earlier ones were safely tucked away. As of this month, there will be 11 hand tracings in the collection.

Tessa and Tim Reagan at home in Silver Spring, Md. With Father's Day approaching fast, Tessa knows exactly what she'll be giving her dad: a card with a hand-tracing inside, as she has every year since she was born.

THE WASHINGTON POST

In addition to reliving their fun times together, Tim says he enjoys knowing, from what Tessa writes, that "she's actually listening to the stories I tell her."

Tessa's earliest memory of the hand tracings is of when she was 3 or 4 and she and her mom would brainstorm what to write. By first grade, she could write down everything herself.

As she has grown, though, the job has become tougher.

"Every year I have to think of more things to write, because my hand gets bigger and bigger," she says. "Sometimes I just write larger."

Jerry Spinelli, a man of many words

By SANDRA G. BOODMAN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

THE WASHINGTON POST
Jerry Spinelli, shown at his home in Wayne, Pa., talked to KidsPost about life as a writer, a profession he shares with his wife, Eileen Spinelli.

Jerry Spinelli is the author of more than two dozen books, including "Maniac Magee," the story of a 12-year-old orphan, which won the coveted Newbery Medal in 1991. His latest book is "Smiles to Go."

Spinelli, 67, lives in Wayne, Pa., near Philadelphia. When he was in 11th grade, his love of sports led to his first published work: a poem about a football victory that appeared in his hometown newspaper. It was submitted without his knowledge by his father, who knew the paper's sports editor.

Around that time, Spinelli said, "it dawned on me that I probably was not going to be a major league baseball player." Instead he decided to become a writer, although "nobody told me how hard it was going to be."

Spinelli talked to KidsPost about life as a writer, a profession he shares with his wife, Eileen Spinelli.

Q: What were you doing before your first book was published?

A: "Mostly collecting rejection slips. I was an editor of a magazine for design engineers. I wanted a job that I could forget about at 5 p.m. I wrote `Maniac Magee' and my first book, `Space Station Seventh Grade,' on my lunch hour. My first book was published in 1982 when I was 40, and I left my job after four or five of my books were published to concentrate on writing. It was tough at first, but things changed after `Maniac Magee' won the Newbery."

Q: What is your writing day like?

A: "Around 10 a.m. I walk up the stairs to work in my office. The hours between 10 and noon are my hard-core writing time. Sometimes that's all the time I put in. I use a computer now, but I was one of the last to do that. I used to write longhand. Usually it takes me about nine to 12 months to write a book.

"The afternoons are when we live. My wife and I venture forth and go to the movies. There's no traffic, and sometimes we're the only two people in the theater."

Q: Where do you get your ideas?

A: "There are three sources: memory, everyday life and my imagination. People tend to think that because I have six kids and 16 grandchildren that's where they come from. But I'm not slinking around behind the sofa watching them.

"I explore memories of my own childhood. Even if I don't remember the event well, I remember the feeling. My favorite characters tend to be girls, especially Stargirl (the heroine and title of one of his most popular books)."

Q: How can kids be better writers?

A: "Read, of course, which is something I never did as a kid. Write about what you care about. I would underline the word `care.' It sounds very simple, but it's not. It's about trying to touch the reader, and it's going to show. If you don't care about what you're writing about, how is anyone else going to?"

Life, love and little sisters

By SANDRA G. BOODMAN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

"Smiles to Go," by Jerry Spinelli
Ages 9 and older

Will Tuppence—a would-be astronomer, maybe boyfriend, chess champion, big brother, skateboarder and ninth-grader—has his life all figured out. Or at least he THINK he does, until he hears the hugely important news that the proton, a microscopic speck in the center of an atom, is dead.

This development throws Will for a loop, causing him to question his life's master plan. One of his more immediate concerns is how to navigate a budding romance with one of his two best friends, the pizza-loving and Monopoly-playing Mi-Su. Will's feelings are complicated by Mi-Su's relationship with his other best friend, BT.

As often happens with the best-laid plans, real life intervenes. One of the biggest complications involves Will's little sister, Tabby, a kindergartner he has nicknamed "The Pest."

How Will figures things out and learns that life is about what's happening now, not about making plans for the future, is a story that you might find applies to you, too.

Two of a Kind: Frogs and toads

By BRENNA MALONEY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

THE WASHINGTON POST
It's tough to be a frog these days: 2008 has been named the Year of the Frog by a number of environmental groups to raise awareness of the plight of amphibians worldwide. This photo shows the large ear disk, pointy snout and smooth skin characteristic of frogs. This one lives at an agricultural research farm in Beltsville, Md.

It's tough to be a frog these days—or a toad, for that matter: 2008 has been named the Year of the Frog by a number of environmental groups to raise awareness of the plight of amphibians worldwide.

What, you didn't know they were in trouble? Between one-third and one-half of all amphibian species are threatened with extinction, the conservation group Amphibian Ark says. Loss of habitat is the major threat, affecting the most species, but a disease called chytrid fungus is also proving deadly.

Frogs and toads make up one of three main groups of amphibians. There are about 3,500 known species of frogs and 300 kinds of toads. They can be found on every continent except Antarctica.

All toads are frogs, but not all frogs are toads. Determining which is which can difficult.

Matt Evans, a biologist and herpetologist (an expert in reptiles and amphibians) at the National Zoo in Washington, gave KidsPost a lesson in the basics. Here are some differences between an American toad and a bullfrog, two species you just might see hopping around your neighborhood.

AMERICAN TOAD

Brown to brick-red to olive. Brownish spots, brown to orange-red warts. Belly usually spotted.

Parotid gland: Oozes poison if the toad is stressed

Eyes: Do not bulge from the body

Ear: External eardrum disk, or tympanum

Skin: Dry and warty

Body: A bit chubby

Legs: Short; used for walking and hopping but not jumping

BULLFROG

The largest frog in North America. Green to yellow back with cream or white belly.

Parotid gland: None. "Frogs have skin glands that can secret toxins, but they are (generally) not as toxic as toads," Evans says.

Eyes: Bulge from the top of the head, allowing them to see in nearly all directions.

Nose: Longer, more pointy than a toad's

Skin: Smooth, moist

Ear: Large disk

Body: Long, leaner than a toad's

Legs: Long and powerful for jumping

Hind feet: Large and webbed for swimming

THE WASHINGTON POST
All toads are frogs, but not all frogs are toads. Determining which is which can difficult. This pet giant toad, part of a reptile show in Manassas, Va., in February, has a chubby body and warty skin like most toads.

Like all amphibians, frogs and toads begin their lives in the water, breathing with gills; as adults on land, they breathe with lungs.

You are most likely to see a toad in your yard or garden; frogs prefer ponds and other still waters. Both animals must return to water to lay their eggs. "Frogs tend to lay eggs in clumps: a single egg surrounded by other eggs, like a ball of eggs," Evans says. "A lot of toads lay their eggs in a single line, so it's like a string of eggs."

A lot can be learned about frogs and toads by observing them. For example, if a toad feels threatened, it will lean forward on its front legs and pump its lungs full of air to appear larger. A frog will tend to flee, using its powerful legs to hop to safety.

Evans reveals a little-known fact about frogs and toads: "They actually use the inside of their eyes to push food down into their throats." You can see this more clearly in frogs, Evans says: "Frogs have big eyes. You always see a frog blink when it's swallowing. The eye socket goes down into their mouth, so when they swallow, their eyes push down and help push food that's in their mouth back into their throat."

Frogs and toads generally do not use their front legs to grab food or assist them in eating. They have a long, sticky tongue that's hinged at the front of the mouth so it can rapidly flip out and capture insects. And the frog's teeth aren't used for chewing. "They're bringing a food item in that's alive when it comes to their mouth; they have to swallow it immediately," Evans says.

If you encounter a frog or toad this summer, Evans has some advice. "It is an age-old myth that toads cause warts. That is not true," he says. But do beware of frogs and toads, especially if they are secreting toxins. "If you get it on your hands and rub your eyes, it could cause some stinging and some burning. I'd say, after you handle them, just wash your hands."

Frog and toad facts

By BRENNA MALONEY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

- A group of frogs is called an army; a group of toads is a knot.
- One American toad can eat as many as 1,000 insects in a day.
- Frogs and toads do not need to drink. Their skin absorbs water.
- The largest frog is the Goliath frog of West Africa. It can grow to more than a foot long.
- The "horned toad" is neither toad nor frog. It's a lizard.
- The bullfrog is believed to be the only animal that never sleeps.
- Some frogs can jump up to 20 times their body length in a single leap.

Lights, camera, growl!

By BRENNA MALONEY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

THE WASHINGTON POST
Animal trainer Mark Dumas works with a dog named Doo. He divides his time among Los Angeles and several places in Canada, where he keeps many of the animals he trains.

WASHINGTON—Pretend you're a movie director, shooting a scene in the Alaskan wilderness. Your stars are a child actress and a 1,600-pound kodiak bear. Now, how do you get that bear to look directly at the girl when she is speaking to him?

Mark Dumas knows. He's an animal trainer with 37 years' experience in movies and television, and he happens to specialize in bears. Dumas, 57, can teach a bear to do many things, including "sit," "stay," "go with" and the ever-important "bond," in which the animal walks into a scene and looks the actor right in the eye.

If it has feathers or fur, chances are Dumas has trained it. His list includes pandas, polar bears, dogs, house cats, lions, tigers, cougars, leopards, camels, deer, raccoons, otters, badgers, monkeys, eagles and a lizard or two.

He has taught animals to "act" in movies and shows that your parents probably remember, such as "The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams," and newer films that you might have seen, including "Ace of Hearts" and "The Bear."

"I didn't want to stay in school to be a veterinarian, but I loved being around animals," Dumas says. After apprenticing with an animal trainer who specialized in big cats, "I kind of fell into it."

Dumas divides his time among Los Angeles and several places in Canada, where he keeps many of the animals he trains.

Teaching an animal to "act" is time-consuming. "It takes about six months from start to finish" to train a dog for a film," Dumas says. He conditions the animals with food, rewarding them when they successfully complete a task.

"Like all animals, you work with them at home (first), then start traveling. You take them to a different location, like a supermarket," Dumas says, to test and reinforce what they have learned. "You make them rock-solid, so nothing really bothers them. It's a way of building their confidence."

On the set, Dumas sometimes finds that his biggest challenges aren't with the animals, but with the actors and directors.

"I've worked with people who are scared to death of animals, and the animal knows it," he says. He also has worked with actors who complain that the animal is "upstaging them," getting all the attention.

With directors, "lots of times animals are just props," Dumas says, recalling one commercial he worked on with a director who didn't understand why a polar bear and a penguin couldn't be made to play together. "They don't live on the same continent!" Dumas explained.

Animal training can be dangerous. Accidents do happen, even with skilled trainers and experienced animals. In April, a 700-pound grizzly that had appeared in a movie and commercials killed a trainer in California.

Dumas knows the danger firsthand. Early in his career, he was walking past a mountain lion that was tied to a stake. As Dumas passed, the animal lunged and pulled the stake out of the ground. Dumas was bitten three times: in one arm and both legs. The big cat hadn't been tied properly, he said. A few days later, his wounds healing, Dumas was back working with the animal.

Some people say it is wrong to use animals in movies. They worry that the animals might be mistreated.

Dumas says he tries to build a relationship with each animal, never forgetting that these creatures are wild. "You have to understand them, respect what they are," he says. It's important to be patient and to always take notice of the animal's mood because, he says, just like us, "they also have bad days."

ANIMAL ACTORS

By BRENNA MALONEY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Mark Dumas has trained hundreds of animals, and each has been a challenge. Here's what he says about a few of his friends in the animal kingdom:

Deer

"Deer are prey animals; it's easier to deal with predator animals. With deer, you need to hand-raise them, teach them to walk on a leash or go to a mark. You have to expose them to many things. Deer aren't smart. They're sweet but not smart."

Wolves

"That big-bad-wolf thing? That's a misnomer. They are shy animals."

Squirrels

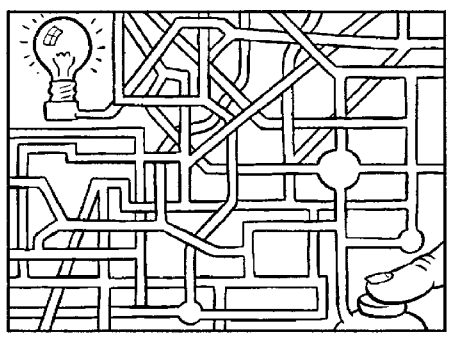
"Squirrels. Not smart."

Cats and Dogs

"The secret to training a cat is that you have to make them believe they are doing it for themselves. A dog does it for you."

Bears

"Bears are really, really smart."



LET THERE BE LIGHT! See if you can turn on the light by finding the correct electrical route through this circuit board from the switch to the bulb.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

D	A	L	A	S	O	T	A	T	O	P	C	C	S
F	E	E	B	T	S	A	O	R	E	A	O	H	E
S	E	H	C	I	W	D	N	A	S	E	L	I	L
N	O	L	E	M	R	E	T	A	W	T	E	C	K
S	G	G	E	B	R	O	W	N	I	E	S	K	C
S	E	O	T	A	M	O	T	H	T	C	L	E	I
S	E	I	K	O	O	C	A	K	E	I	A	N	P
E	S	E	E	H	C	M	P	I	E	O	W	E	K

A PRESIDENTIAL STUMPER! Four requirements must be met before a person can become president of the United States. He, or she, must be at least 35, born a citizen, and have lived in the U.S.A. for at least 14 years. Can you tell us what the fourth requirement is?

Answer: The candidate must get elected!

LET'S HAVE A PICNIC!

Hidden in the diagram above are 16 items we can take on our picnic. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the items that you're looking for:

Brownies	Eggs	Potato salad
Cake	Ham	Roast beef
Cheese	Ice tea	Sandwiches
Chicken	Pickles	Tomatoes
Cole slaw	Pie	Watermelon
Cookies		

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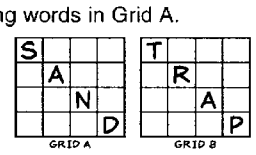
'PAR' FOR THIS ONE IS 8! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

1. To put away.
2. Shakespeare was one.
3. An outer-space drink.
4. To goad into action.



1. What a tug boat does.
2. Small wire nail.
3. A small biter.
4. Type of hard candy.

Answers: 1. Stow-tows. 2. Bard-brad. 3. Tang-gnat. 4. Prod-drop.

Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ Are you interested in pogonotrophy? If you're a woman, the answer is probably no. The word, derived from the Greek word "pogon," or "beard," and the suffix "-trophy," or "nourishment," refers to the growing of a beard.

■ Saturday, May 3, 2008, was the fourth annual World Naked Gardening Day.

■ It was humorist Erma Bombeck who made the following sage observation: "Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died."

■ For better or worse, Wal-Mart stores are a ubiquitous part of the American landscape, and they're spreading across the world. The ones in foreign countries aren't all like the ones we're familiar with here at home, though. In some places, Wal-Mart stores have weekly singles nights. If you're in the market for love as well as cheap goods, you can tie a red ribbon on your cart to announce your intentions.

■ Chickens were domesticated before cats were.

■ If you live in Florida or Louisiana—or practically anywhere else in the Southeast—you know to watch out for alligators when you're off the beaten path (and even sometimes when you're on it). Most adult male gators reach about 11 feet in length, but the largest one on record was a full 19 feet long. Imagine stepping off your back porch in Miami, taking a stroll down to a canal and running into *that* brute!

■ When you go to the movies these days, have you noticed that the seats seem a bit roomier than they used to? You're not imagining things: Over the course of the past decade, a standard theater seat has grown from 19 to 22 inches, an increase of more than 10 percent.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "There is nothing so absurd but some philosopher has said it." —Cicero

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MAGIC MAZE ● MASTER —

E	T	Q	N	K	H	E	B	Y	W	T	R	O	L	J
G	C	N	E	B	Y	W	U	R	P	N	K	I	G	E
D	B	N	A	L	P	Z	X	V	S	Q	O	M	R	S
K	I	G	E	E	E	C	A	Y	W	U	S	Q	E	U
P	N	L	J	I	G	H	K	F	E	C	A	Y	D	O
X	V	U	S	Q	C	R	A	F	T	S	M	A	N	H
P	N	M	K	J	O	S	E	H	F	A	P	E	I	E
C	B	Z	Y	W	X	T	F	S	S	Y	I	Y	L	H
V	U	T	D	N	I	M	O	O	R	D	E	B	Y	T
R	Q	P	O	U	M	L	N	Y	P	O	C	K	C	F
K	I	H	S	E	I	N	O	M	E	R	E	C	F	O

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Bedroom	Key	Of Science	Sergeant
Copy	Mason	Of the house	Suite
Craftsman	Mind	Piece	Work
Cylinder	Of ceremonies	Plan	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		15
−		x		÷	
	−		+		3
x		+		x	
	x		−		17
10		10		9	

1 2 3 4 5 6 6 7 9

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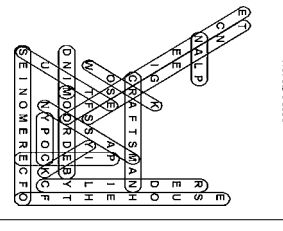
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	9		10		10
17	3	−	4	x	5
	x		+		x
3	2	+	6	−	7
	÷		x		−
15	6	+	1	÷	9

Cat on a leash

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: The other day I watched a neighbor walking her cat on a leash. I was unaware that cats could even stand a leash, much less that they need to have one to go outside. What's the deal with cat leashes? —Bill R., Cleveland

DEAR BILL: Cat leashes aren't as new or unusual as you think—they've been available at local pet stores for more than a decade now, and the idea of taking one's cat outside on a leash is continuing to catch on, for a simple reason: Owners want to keep their cats safe.

The leash is one sign in a trend of heightened awareness among cat owners, that letting their cats run around the neighborhood unfettered is detrimental to almost everyone involved—the neighbors, the owner and the cat itself, which is at risk from cars, wildlife and manmade or natural poisons. Local laws around the country also are increasing penalties for cats that run loose.

Increasingly, cat owners are deciding to make their cat an indoor cat, where the pet stays inside. But not all cats are happy being inside all the time; and many owners still want their pets to experience the outdoors.

Cat leashes differ from dog leashes—they're much lighter, as is the harness used to attach the leash. (Leashes should never be attached to the cat's collar.) The leash should be no longer than 6 feet, as cats do not follow verbal commands the way that dogs do, and tend to leap under bushes or toward the street, necessitating a gentle tug back onto the sidewalk.

While this trend may seem a bit strange to some, as America's spaces become more urbanized, "walking the cat" will likely become a very common sight.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Modern wire silhouette for dad

Skip the tie and cologne for Dad's gift this Father's Day, June 15. Instead, get outside on a sunny day, grab about 3 1/2 feet of colorful, plastic-coated, 12-gauge electrical wire from the toolbox and create a wire sculpture of your child's profile.

Discover how easy it is to make this unique display for Dad's bookshelf or desk.

Here's how to get started:

Go outside with your child when the sun is shining, and take a look at his shadow. Turn his head sideways, place a piece of paper on a flat wall and trace the shadow of the profile of his face and head.

Take the electrical wire and bend it to form the shape of the shadow of his chin, mouth, nose, forehead and around the top and back of the head. Use needle-nose pliers to help bend the wire. Note: When you make a lip, you have to exaggerate the mouth a little more than the actual silhouette reveals. Poke the two ends of wire, which form his neck, into a small, 6-inch, flat round or square board with holes drilled small enough so that the wires fit snugly. The wires will be inserted about 2 1/2 inches apart. Add some glue where the wire is inserted to keep the wire firmly in place in the base.

For hair, add thinner colored wire and twist it onto the head. For curly hair, wrap the wire around a pencil. Remove the pencil and then attach the "curls" to the head. If you create a ponytail with thin wire, use a hair clip to cinch it together.

You'll definitely see your child from a different point of view when the modern art silhouette is complete.

Once you get started, don't stop with the kids in the family. Make one of Dad, yourself and even your pet dog or cat for an "all in the family" display.

Note: If the sun isn't shining, simply shape the wire directly around your child's profile. Ask him to open his lips slightly to make the best shape.

The baseboards are available at crafts stores, or you could use a smooth wooden block. The wire is available at most hardware stores.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

For mom with four kids, travel is only a guilt trip

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I gave birth to my fourth child a few months ago. (My oldest is 5.) I am now being pressured by my in-laws, who live in another state, to visit. They expect me to pack up the six of us and drive three hours to a house that is not child-friendly.

I have tried to be as accommodating as possible, and have traveled as much as I could with pregnancies and newborns to deal with. I am just not up to it this time. Would it be unreasonable of me to ask for a year's reprieve?

I would gladly throw open my doors to any and all who would like to visit and see the grandchildren, but traveling has become too much for me. I just can't go anywhere at this time. Why won't people understand? Why must I be constantly burdened with the guilt of disappointing others?

Can't they see that for me, traveling is no longer a "diversion" but a cumbersome undertaking? Or am I the one being difficult?

GUILT-RIDDEN IN MARYLAND

DEAR GUILT-RIDDEN: Sometimes people become so used to the status quo that they overlook the reality that circumstances change. The time has come for you to quit trying so hard to be a people-pleaser. Tell your in-laws they are welcome to visit at a time of their choosing, but that with the arrival of your fourth child under the age of 6, travel has become too much for you.

And please do not feel guilty for speaking up. Your husband should support you on this—unless he is willing to do his share of the packing, the driving and entertaining the children while they are en route.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a wonderful man for a year. We love each other—no question about that—but when I tell him I'm IN love with him, he never responds. He says he doesn't know what that means.

He asked me to explain the difference between loving someone and being in love. He says it doesn't make sense to him. Please help me explain to him what it means to be in love. I need to know that he's in love with me, not that he just loves me.

IN LOVE IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR IN LOVE: If you have to explain to this wonderful man what it means to be in love, then I'm sorry to be the one to tell you he may not BE in love with you. While it's possible for a man or woman to "love" many people (and cats, and pizza and shiny cars), when someone is IN love, then only the object of that emotion will satisfy him or her. There is nothing unsure or doubtful about it, and no substitute will suffice.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I frequently receive birthday cards, Christmas cards and other mail that has been misaddressed. Today a thank-you note from "Carrie" to "Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Murphy" arrived at our address. Our name is Smith, and we have no idea who the Murphys are. Again, there was no return address to let the sender know the address was incorrect.

I do open these mailings, hoping there will be an address on the inside. When I return them to the post office, they just wind up in the dead-letter file.

Please remind your readers to put return addresses on their correspondence.

RETURN TO SENDER, CATASAUQUA, PA.

DEAR MRS. SMITH: I'm pleased to pass the word along. However, you should not open mail that is addressed to someone else because to do so is against the law. The envelope should be marked "addressee unknown" and returned to the post office or to your mail carrier.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Jolie vs Aniston in box-office tussle

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Angelina Jolie and Jennifer Aniston are sharing a play date. Brad Pitt's current romantic partner Jolie and ex-wife Aniston will go head-to-head at theaters Oct. 24, when both have a movie coming out.

Jolie stars in Clint Eastwood's missing-child drama "Changeling" while Aniston is part of the ensemble cast in the romantic comedy "He's Just Not That Into You."

Aniston probably will win the dollar battle because her film debuts in nationwide release, while "Changeling" starts in just a few cities to build critical buzz before going wide Oct. 31.

But Jolie, an Academy Award winner for "Girl, Interrupted," likely will lead the acclaim game. Well received by critics in its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in May, "Changeling" has put Jolie in the running for a best-actress Oscar.

Set in the 1920s and '30s, "Changeling" is based on the true story of a single mom in a nightmare battle with corrupt Los Angeles police trying to cover their mistakes in the investigation surrounding her missing 9-year-old son.

The commercial prospects for "He's Just Not That Into You" are bolstered by an all-star cast including Ben Affleck, Scarlett Johansson, Drew Barrymore and Jennifer Connelly. Directed by Ken Kwapis ("The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants"), the movie focuses on the mixed signals men and women send in relationships.

Pitt and Jolie—expecting twins, their fifth and sixth children—hooked up after costarring in the 2005 hit "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" as his marriage to Aniston was unraveling.

Universal Pictures is releasing "Changeling" and Warner Bros. is distributing "He's Just Not That Into You."

AP

In this May 20, 2008 file photo, actress Angelina Jolie poses at the photo call for the film "Changeling" at the 61st International film festival in Cannes, southern France.

Siegfried and Roy welcome new tiger cubs to Vegas habitat

AP

Roy Horn, of the illusionist team of Siegfried & Roy, kisses a six-week-old white-striped tiger cub at his Las Vegas home Thursday, June 12, 2008.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Siegfried and Roy might want to move the good furniture into storage for a while.

The famed illusionists welcomed five new tiger cubs to their exotic habitat on the Las Vegas Strip on Thursday, a move Siegfried Fischbacher said would be therapeutic for Roy Horn, who was critically injured when he was mauled by a 380-pound white Bengal tiger onstage in 2003.

"That gives him a reason to get up in the morning," Fischbacher said.

Horn did not answer questions from reporters but played with the small tigers, holding them for the cameras, kissing them and nibbling on one's small ear. The playful, 15-pound, 6-week old cubs were brought to Las Vegas three weeks ago to be part of the longtime duo's animal breeding program.

The cubs—two white females, two white striped females and a golden male tiger—were to be taken to a nursery for public display at the Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat at The Mirage hotel-casino. The exhibit houses lions, tigers, leopards and a black panther.

"Our life is a purpose," Fischbacher said. "Our purpose is to keep them from extinction."

Fischbacher said Horn had named the golden cub Svengali because it was a name for a womanizer—and the cub was growing up with four females.

"He has to hold court," he said.

Fischbacher said the illusionists were moving ahead as promised with a one-night-only comeback next year to benefit the Lou Ruvo Brain Institute. But he's not sure whether the young tigers will be a part of the Feb. 7, 2009, performance.

"I'm always getting questions, 'Are they going to be in our show?'" he said. "They are just a part of our life."

2 charged in London with giving Amy Winehouse drugs

LONDON (AP)—Police have charged a man and a woman in London with supplying drugs to Amy Winehouse.

The charges stem from a video that appeared to show the singer smoking crack cocaine.

London police say John Blagrove and Cara Burton have been charged with conspiracy to supply cocaine and MDMA, also known as ecstasy.

The suspects were released on bail Thursday until their next court appearance on July 1.

Police began an investigation after photos from the footage were published in The Sun newspaper in January. Detectives say Winehouse will not be charged in the case.

Winehouse

The singer has seen her rise to fame overshadowed by media attention to her turbulent private life. She is best known for her breakthrough hit "Rehab."

Jamie Foxx and stylist settle lawsuit over fees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jamie Foxx needs no help getting dressed for trial—the actor has apparently reached a settlement with a former stylist who sued him. Documents filed Wednesday in Los Angeles show that attorneys for stylist Stacy Young and Foxx have reached an undisclosed agreement. Young helped Foxx primp for the 2006 BET Awards and a press junket for the film "Miami Vice."

Her lawsuit claimed that she was never paid for the work or her costs.

Foxx's attorneys denied the claims, saying Universal Studios, not Foxx, hired Young for the "Miami Vice" work.

Young's attorney says their camp is "pleased" about the settlement, but declined to offer details. Foxx's attorney did not respond to phone and e-mail messages left Thursday.

In this Oct. 6, 2007 file photo, actor Jamie Foxx poses for the media during a photo call to promote the movie "The Kingdom", Basel, Switzerland. AP

Rihanna, Ne-Yo, Hudson coming to BET Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The BET Awards keeps getting more talent under its umbrella.

Rihanna will take the stage June 24, the show announced Thursday. Also added: Ne-Yo, Jennifer Hudson, Terrence Howard and Gabrielle Union.

The lineup had already included Alicia Keys, Chris Brown, Kanye West, Lil Wayne, Nelly and Usher.

Hudson, Howard and Union will help present awards recognizing the year's best musicians, music videos, actors and athletes.

Jill Scott will perform a tribute to BET's Lifetime Achievement Award winner Al Green, and Quincy Jones will receive the network's Humanitarian Award.

Pastimes

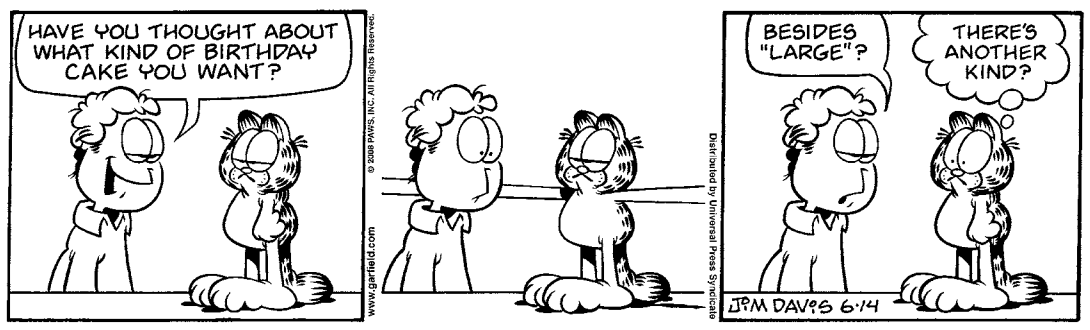
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

OK, OUT OF THE HAMMOCK.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THIS ISN'T YOUR HAMMOCK.
IT'S MY TURN.
I WAS HERE FIRST. IT'S YOUR TURN WHEN I'M DONE.
IF YOU WON'T GET OUT, THEN I'M COMING IN WITH YOU.
LIKE HECK YOU ARE!
THIS CRUMMY HAMMOCK ALWAYS SAGS.
6/14 ©1988 Universal Press Syndicate
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT KIND OF BIRTHDAY CAKE YOU WANT?
BESIDES "LARGE"?
THERE'S ANOTHER KIND?
JIM DAVIS 6-14
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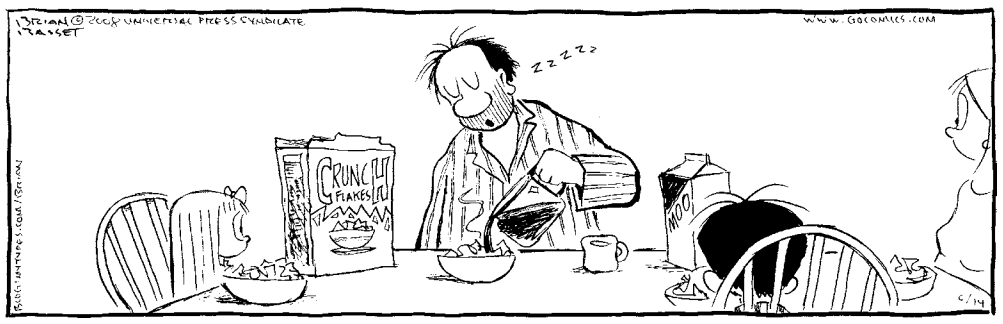
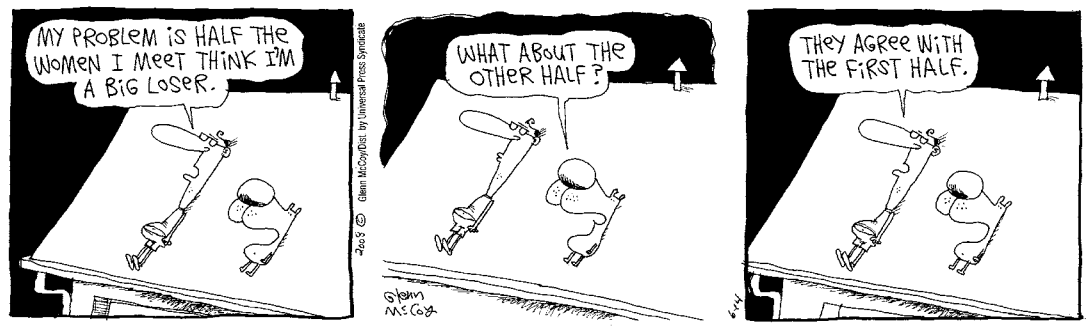
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


MY PROBLEM IS HALF THE WOMEN I MEET THINK I'M A BIG LOSER.
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER HALF?
THEY AGREE WITH THE FIRST HALF.
Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

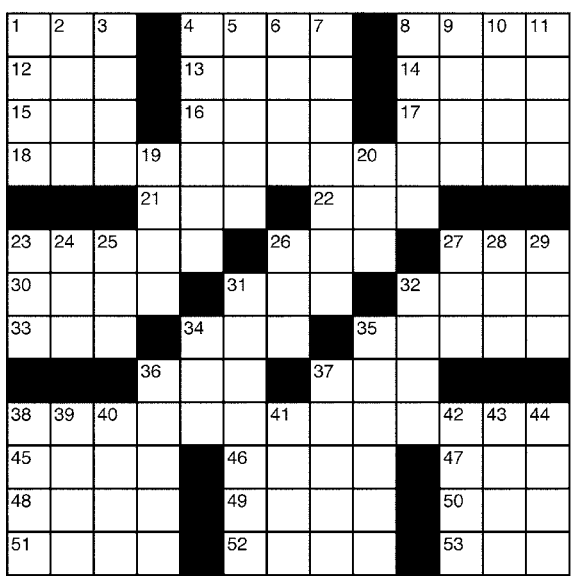
ACROSS
1 Nourished
4 Concocted
8 Frost
12 One in a row?
13 Summertime desserts
14 Hence
15 1980 Olympics boycotter
16 Tallow source
17 Muumuus' accessories
18 Enrollments
21 Middling grade
22 Wage earner's burden
23 Deluge
26 Candy in a dispenser
27 Foundation
30 Incline
31 Insult (Sl.)
32 "National Treasure" star
33 Tibetan critter
34 Plead
35 Google alternative
36 Drone
37 "Alley —"
38 Daytime TV duo
45 Uncontrolled
46 Protuberance
47 Nay undoer
48 Scoff
49 Barbie, for one
50 Aviv preceder
51 Use a teaspoon
52 "The — the limit"
53 Kreskin's claim

DOWN
1 Tea time
2 Facility
3 "Some Like It Hot" costuming
4 Wasn't accurate
5 Sharp
6 Antelope's playmate
7 Executors' concerns
8 Spiral
9 Sandwich treat
10 Not "fer"
11 "Friends" role
19 PC symbol
20 Bugs Bunny foe, familiarly
23 Soar
24 Meadow
25 Erstwhile acorn
26 Glutton
27 "Humbug!"
28 Freudian topic
29 — volente
31 Insists on
32 Part of a supersuit
34 Clear the tables
35 Hayseeds
36 One on a long walk
37 "Strange to tell, ..."
38 Alger's "before"
39 Send forth
40 Asian desert
41 Breakfast area
42 Tardy
43 Old soap ingredients
44 Shrill bark

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	P	E	■	G	A	M	■	C	R	I	E	D		
B	U	R		I	D	I	■	H	A	R	R	Y		
A	N	I	■	S	H	A	R	E	W	A	R	E		
F	C	C		H	E	M	A	N	■	■	■	■		
T	H	A	W	■	R	I	M	■	S	H	U	N		
■	■	■	I	K	E	■	P	R	A	I	S	E		
W	H	E	R	E	■	■	I	T	S	A	T	■		
H	O	N	E	Y	S	■	S	P	Y	■	■	■		
O	D	D	S	■	L	O	U	■	R	A	N	D		
■	■	■	C	O	N	G	E	■	L	E	E	■		
U	N	D	E	R	W	E	A	R	■	E	V	A		
S	I	E	G	E	■	A	R	I	■	P	E	N		
E	L	B	O	W	■	L	Y	E	■	H	R	S		

Yesterday's answer 6-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Daryl Sabara, 16; Yasmine Bleeth, 40; Will Patton, 54; Donald Trump, 62

Happy Birthday: The creative dreams you have must be put to the test. It's time to stop talking and start doing. Don't be afraid of failure—seize the moment and move ahead before you lose your enthusiasm. This is a year of change, so make it happen. Your numbers are 7, 13, 19, 24, 35, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A partnership may need extra attention. Compromise if you must in order to keep the peace. Be fair and you will earn respect, devotion and a lifelong friendship. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You may be faced with emotional matters that are difficult to deal with. Be sensitive to everyone else's needs and you will get the same in return. Make amends so you can move on. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Money is heading your way, so spend it properly. Put your efforts into your surroundings or purchase property. Getting help around the house will turn work into a family affair that will draw you all closer. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Cut yourself some slack and take part in an event or activity that you can enjoy. Relatives, friends and neighbors will all be supportive. A chance to try something altogether different can lead to a new job or skill. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't get upset over trivial matters. If someone is trying to get a rise out of you, do something with someone who appreciates you for who you are and what you have to offer. Emotions will be hard to control so avoid whoever is causing you grief. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Socializing will do you good. Don't hesitate to get in touch with someone from your past. You can revive an old friendship that will be just what you need in your life right now. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't rely on others to do things for you. You will be misled if you aren't involved. Laziness will be your downfall and will cause problems with the people in your life who are doers. Do your part. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep things in perspective and realize that no one can have his or her way all of the time. Stick to what you know, stay calm and offer what you can but, if that's not enough, avoid arguments by backing away. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Stick close to anyone who can help you do the right thing and avoid those who will lead you to temptation. Position yourself for success, not failure. It's who you associate with that will make the difference. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You will experience a revelation that will mold what you do in the future. Start making contacts that can help you achieve your latest dreams, hopes and aspirations. Don't fear change or your ability to be successful. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Money may be an issue if you think you have more than you do. Stick to your budget, no matter what tempts you. Gather friends who know how to have a good time without going into debt. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Things are moving rapidly in your world and you will finally realize what you have actually gained along the way. Good things will come in mysterious ways and through chance meetings. Someone you miss will reappear. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated and determined, imaginative and inventive. You are certain of your abilities and eager to follow your heart and your goals.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1						7		
						4		
6	2				9			1
	7	9			3			
	3						2	
			5			8	4	
4			8				5	9
		1						
		8						6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	5	6	2	8	3	9	7
8	3	7	9	5	1	6	2	4
2	6	9	3	7	4	8	5	1
5	9	8	1	3	6	4	7	2
4	1	3	2	8	7	5	6	9
6	7	2	5	4	9	1	3	8
7	5	6	8	1	2	9	4	3
9	2	1	4	6	3	7	8	5
3	8	4	7	9	5	2	1	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SCHOOL BUSES **Solution: 6 letters**

P	C	C	T	N	O	R	F	S	T	S	D	Y	S	C
L	A	C	I	M	O	N	O	C	E	E	T	N	C	R
R	R	S	S	F	B	I	I	U	R	R	O	O	A	O
D	E	E	S	E	F	R	T	I	T	I	V	L	P	S
I	G	H	H	E	T	A	T	A	T	E	A	I	A	S
E	I	A	T	S	N	E	R	A	C	U	O	Y	C	T
S	V	N	I	A	R	G	L	T	G	U	I	C	I	E
E	E	D	T	O	E	U	E	H	R	S	D	N	T	E
L	R	L	W	E	G	W	T	R	T	O	A	E	Y	R
L	S	D	B	E	R	E	I	U	S	A	R	G	E	T
S	Y	A	R	A	R	L	D	N	I	L	U	R	S	S
T	R	(L)	F	D	I	E	O	S	D	A	O	E	I	E
E	A	O	(A)	E	N	L	L	C	R	O	Z	M	O	M
P	E	E	O	(T)	T	E	E	D	K	I	W	E	N	O
S	R	W	S	D	(E)	Y	S	R	S	F	L	A	S	H

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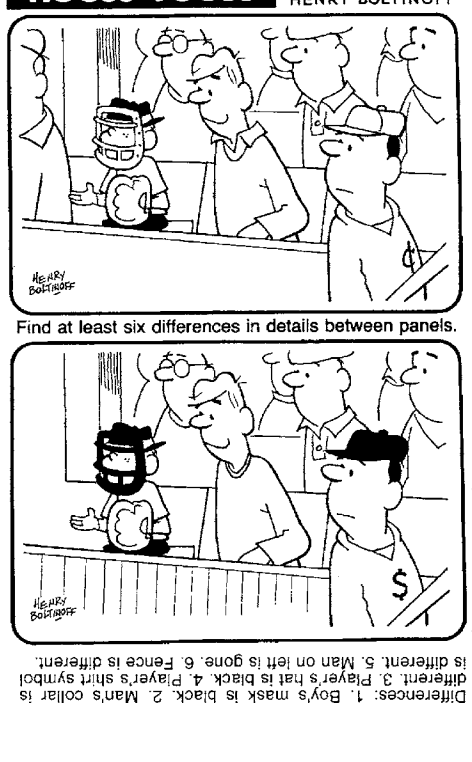
Aisle, Athletes, Behave, Capacity, Caregivers, Cross, Diesel, District, Doors, Economical, Education, Emergency, Flash, Front, Guards, Home, Interlock, Late, Laughter, Mirror, Noise, Passengers, Radio, Read, Rear, Regulations, Reliable, Retired, Route, Rowdy, Safety, Service, Size, Steps, Stops, Street, Students, Traffic, Weather, Window

Yesterday's Answer: Weight

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #5** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.99 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6689. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Boy's mask is black. 2. Man's collar is different. 3. Player's hat is black. 4. Player's shirt symbol is different. 5. Man on left is gone. 6. Fence is different.

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Wishing Well®

2	5	2	6	5	3	5	8	4	8	3	4	2
E	C	X	L	L	A	O	A	A	L	M	L	P
3	4	6	2	4	6	5	3	5	2	7	3	4
A	O	I	E	V	F	U	R	D	C	B	R	E
8	4	5	6	2	6	8	4	7	3	5	7	6
O	T	S	E	T	I	V	O	E	I	A	C	S
7	4	6	8	6	8	2	3	8	4	2	3	4
O	R	N	E	O	A	T	A	F	E	O	G	M
5	3	6	7	4	7	2	6	3	4	6	4	6
R	E	T	N	E	G	W	B	O	M	O	B	R
5	4	2	7	6	3	8	4	3	2	8	3	7
E	E	I	E	I	F	F	R	L	N	A	O	N
6	5	3	6	3	8	5	7	8	5	7	5	7
N	G	V	G	E	I	O	I	R	N	A	E	L

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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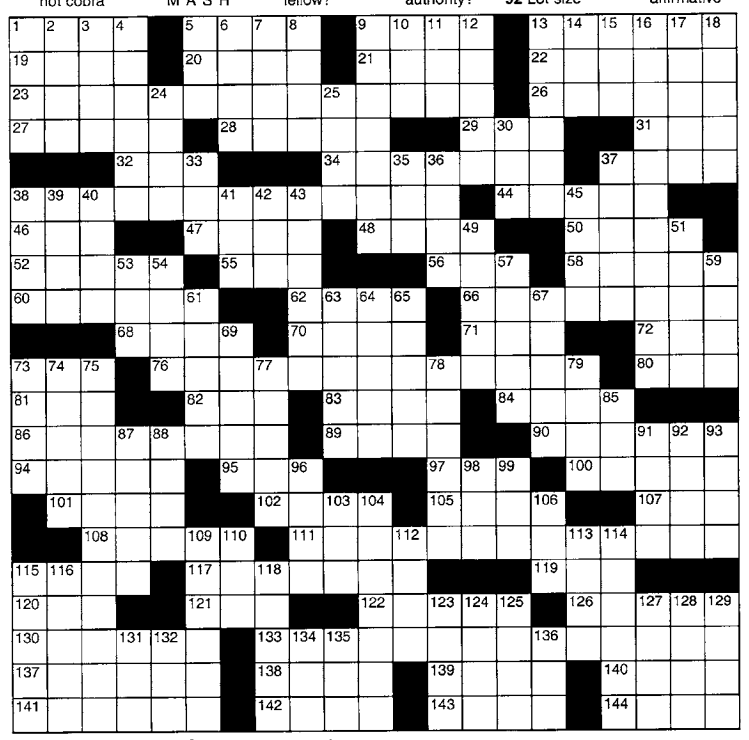
Super Crossword

SHOCK TREATMENT

ACROSS
1 Not quite closed
5 Doris Day refrain
9 Junket
13 Significance
19 Prepare a pear
20 Author Murdoch
21 Run the show
22 Five iron
23 Electrician's favorite rockers?
26 Shorthand inventor
27 Periwinkle, e.g.
28 Primeval upheaval
29 See 14 Down
31 Mil. policy
32 Lassie's mother
34 Puzzled
37 Word with song or dive
38 Question for a tardy electrician?
44 Figure
46 Nice time of year
47 Genesis name
48 Wordy Webster
50 Eloquent equine
52 Boa, but not cobra
55 Raven maven?
56 Dandy
58 Quick snacks
60 Roller-coaster feeling
62 Apparel
66 Alaric, for one
68 Buddies
70 South Seas novel
71 — Marie Saint
72 TV's "— Haw"
73 Part of USSR
76 Electrician's theme song?
80 "— Parkington" ('44 film)
81 GI's address
82 — down (destroy)
83 Melodious McEntire
84 Galba's garment
86 First state
89 Paradise
90 Sleeve type
94 — nous
95 Cen. segments
97 "— -Tiki"
100 Clear the windshield
101 Loretta of "M*A*S*H"
102 Cuban currency
105 Ladies of the lea
107 Hosp. areas
108 "— luego"
111 Electrician's teatime treats?
115 Wading bird
117 '65 Righteous Brothers hit
119 Capote, on stage
120 "Unforgettable" name
121 Born
122 "— Gay"
126 One of the Titans
130 Fleet
133 Electrician's favorite history subject?
137 Tidy up
138 Relate
139 "So — You" ('77 song)
140 — -friendly
141 Borgnine or Gallo
142 Award for 101 Across
143 Chore
144 Work in the lab

DOWN
1 Feigns
2 Dear fellow?
3 Surface measurement
4 Dwell
5 "— vous plait"
6 Skater Heiden
7 Loaded
8 Sailing
9 Wagner hero
10 Capek drama
11 Unwell
12 Italian specialty
13 Mischievous
14 With 29 Across, rum cocktail
15 Washington hrs.
16 Words on an electrician's sampler?
17 Lasso
18 Mortise's mate
24 Wilde work
25 Aim
30 Burro
33 Herd word
35 From — Z
36 Page
37 Bit of parsley
38 Singer Dottie
39 Craving
40 Parent
41 Diamond authority?
42 — Paulo, Brazil
43 Sally Struthers' birthplace
45 Both: prefix
49 Humble house
51 Prevent
53 Torn or Taylor
54 Defect
57 Perform a pirouette
59 "— a Lady" ('71 hit)
61 Andes animal
63 Donizetti's "L'elisir d'—"
64 Got a galley going
65 Fancy dessert
67 Relish
69 Bedtime reading
73 Mean Marquis
74 Removes the cork
75 Poet turned electrician?
77 Nebbish
78 Maris or Mattingly
79 "My word!"
85 Generation
87 La Scala songs
88 Moistens
91 Pride papa
92 Lot size
93 Stack role
96 Splinter group
98 Hold the deed
99 Safety — 103 "— generis"
104 Hospital worker
106 Fast way to the UK
109 Lodger
110 Lincoln or Lyman
112 Betting setting
113 Learn fast?
114 End product
115 Cockamamie
116 Less adorned
118 Ms. Midler
123 Leave out
124 Turner of "Peyton Place"
125 Hill dwellers
127 — majesty
128 Belligerent deity
129 Spanish artist
131 Enjoyed Thanksgiving
132 — Plaines, IL
134 Clear one's throat
135 Common street name
136 NASA affirmative



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ART: Who painted the work titled "Twittering Machine"?
2. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek word "dactyl" mean?
3. ARCHITECTURE: For whom is Carolingian art or architecture named?
4. LITERATURE: What style of literature is "The Pilgrim's Progress"?
5. THEATER: With which famous playwright was the actor Richard Burbage closely associated?
6. BUSINESS: What company's nickname is "Big Brown"?
7. TELEVISION: Who played the lead character in "The Bionic Woman"?
8. MEDICAL: What is the common name for tinea pedis?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of creature does a lepidopterist collect?
10. MEASUREMENTS: How much champagne does a magnum hold?

Answers

1. Paul Klee
2. Finger or toe
3. Charlemagne
4. Allegory
5. Shakespeare
6. United Parcel Service
7. Lindsay Wagner
8. Athlete's foot
9. Butterflies or moths
10. Two standard bottles

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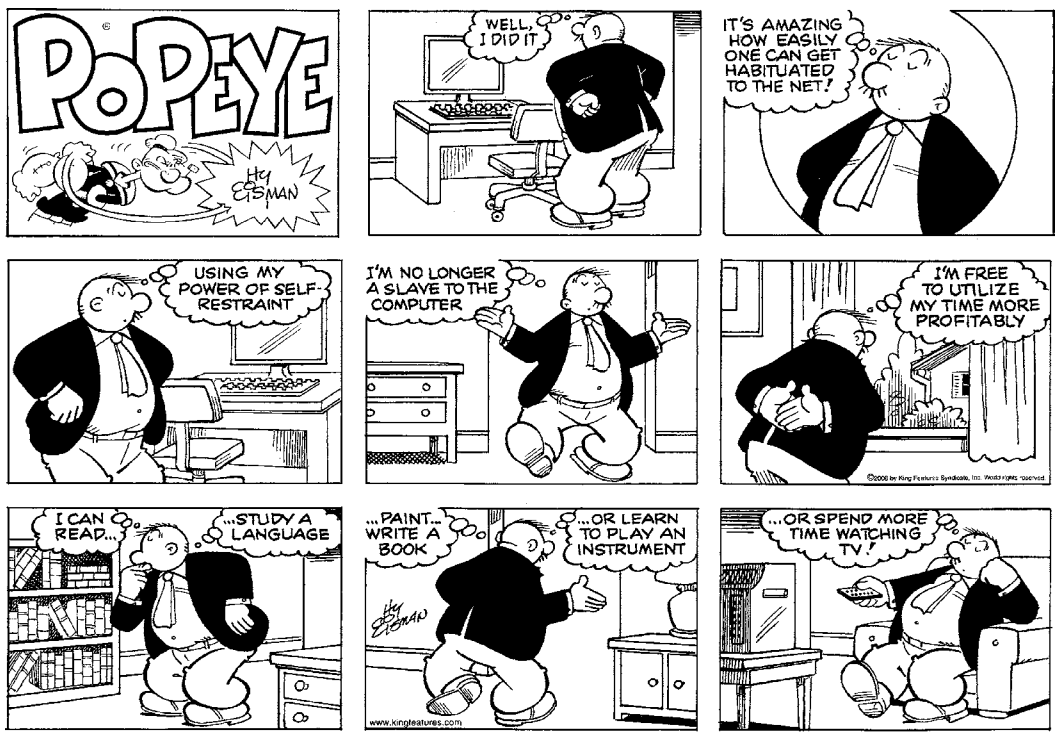
Saturday's Answers


POPEYE
Hey Eisman
WELL, I DID IT
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...STUDY A LANGUAGE
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Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

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NOW DON'T YOU BE JEALOUS! IT'S NOT SO BAD BEING IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.
YOU'RE MILES FROM ANY TRAFFIC, POLLUTION AND MILES FROM ANY CROWDS!.
....AND MILES FROM ANY MOTEL VACANCY.

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

GRANDMA!! I JUST MADE IT TO THE "SIXTH LEVEL"!!
JEFFY, ARE YOU PLAYING SOME SORT OF VIDEO GAME?
NO, GRANDPA IS TEACHING ME NASTY WORDS!!

MARK TRAIL
SEA ANEMONES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE FLOWERS OF THE SEA, AND ARE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD
THERE ARE OVER 1,000 SPECIES, AND THEIR RANGE EXTENDS FROM COASTAL TIDE POOLS TO DEPTHS OF 30,000 FEET
THE DELICATE AND FLOWER-LIKE SEA ANEMONE LOOKS LIKE A PLANT, BUT IT IS REALLY A MEAT-EATING ANIMAL
...WHEREBY ONE FULL-GROWN ANEMONE SPLITS INTO TWO INDIVIDUALS
IN FACT, SMALL FRAGMENTS OF ONE OF THESE ODD CREATURES, WHEN TORN ON ROUGH ROCKS OR BY ENEMY ATTACK...
THIS SLOW-MOVING ANIMAL HAS THE ABILITY TO REPRODUCE BY EGGS OR BY DIVISION...
...HAVE THE ABILITY TO REGENERATE INTO REPLICAS OF THE ADULT...AND SEEMINGLY THE ANEMONE GOES ON LIVING FOREVER
JACK ELROD

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CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

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Job Vacancy Announcements

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REFUNDS

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Celtics storm back, beat Lakers 97-91 in Game 4

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In their comeback season, the Celtics saved the biggest one of all for the NBA finals. Boston rallied from a 24-point deficit and beat the Los Angeles Lakers 97-91 on Thursday night to take a commanding 3-1 lead in this history-rich series and move within one victory of a 17th championship that seemed impossible a year ago.

A rivalry between the league's two most storied franchises—with some of the game's biggest names and biggest moments—now has its biggest rally.

No team had ever overcome more than a 15-point deficit after the first quarter, and although the league doesn't have a record for the largest rally in a finals game, the Celtics staged one that will forever be remembered in the annals of Celtics-Lakers lore.

When the final horn sounded, Paul Pierce, an L.A. kid playing in front of family and friends, doubled over in exhaustion and exuberance. The Celtics, the team he stuck with through 10 years, including a 24-win season in 2006-07, had done the impossible.

"We sucked it up," Pierce said. "We said we weren't going to back down.

"At the end of the third quarter I looked up at the scoreboard and told the fellas, 'We just have to go out there and compete and let the chips fall where they may.'"

Pierce scored 20 points, Kevin Garnett had 16 points and 11 rebounds and Ray Allen had 19 points as Boston's Big Three, thrown together last summer by general manager Danny Ainge to revive a franchise accustomed to hanging banners from the rafters, put the Lakers on the brink of a summer vacation.

It took an epic comeback to do it, and now the Celtics can reclaim their place atop pro basketball with a win in Game 5 on Sunday night in Los Angeles.

No team has ever recovered from a 3-1 deficit in the finals.

"It can always happen. We aren't counting on that statistic," Pierce said. "We want to take care of this on Father's Day."

Kobe Bryant scored 19 points on 6-of-19 shooting but the league's MVP couldn't rescue the Lakers when they needed him most. Lamar Odom had 19 points—15 in the first half—and Pau Gasol, whose addition in a midseason trade was supposed to give the Lakers their final piece to complement Bryant, had 17 points and 10 rebounds.

Trailing by 18 points at halftime and seemingly done when they fell behind by 20 with 6:04 left in the third quarter, the Celtics outscored the Lakers 31-15 in the third quarter to pull within 73-71 going into the fourth.

The remarkable rally was reminiscent of what Los Angeles did in Game 2, when the Lakers trimmed a 24-point deficit to two in the fourth quarter before the Celtics regrouped to open a 2-0 lead. But Boston had another 12 minutes to finish off theirs, and the green-and-white did.

Boston's comeback included a 21-3 run over the final five minutes, fueled by two 3-pointers from Eddie House, who was getting more playing time because of Rajon Rondo's tender left ankle. The Celtics were still down by double digits with 2 minutes left in the third but closed the quarter with a 10-1 run, capped by P.J. Brown's dunk—a slam that could be felt all the way back to Boston's North End.

The Celtics finally caught the Lakers at 73-all on Leon Powe's jumper in the lane with 9:05 remaining, tying the score for the first time since it was 2-2 in the first minute.

At that point, the Lakers looked lost, confused, you name it. And when House hit an 18-foot jumper with 4:07 remaining, the Celtics had their first lead, 84-83. Boston's bench erupted, Lakers fans gasped and it was just a matter of time before they were heading out of Staples Center wondering what went wrong.

Bryant, who except for a 36-point performance in Game 3 has been an ordinary superstar in his try for a fourth championship ring, tried to rally the Lakers and got them within 89-87 with one of his patented twisting layups. But James Posey drilled a 3-pointer for Boston to make it 92-87 with 1:13 left. Derek Fisher's long jumper got the Lakers within three.

But Pierce was fouled and made two free throws, forcing Los Angeles coach Phil Jackson to call a timeout with 47 seconds to go. As the Lakers headed toward their bench, Pierce pumped his fists, flexed his muscles and let out a yell.

Surrounded by Hollywood stars on their own back lot sound stage, the Lakers were seeking their 10th straight win at home in the postseason and were about to drop the "if necessary" tag from Game 6. Now, they have to hope they can force the series back to Boston.

For the third time in this series, commissioner David Stern met with the media before the game. It was an unusual step for the league's long-tenured leader, who went on the offensive to defend the integrity of NBA officials under fire in the Tim Donaghy scandal.

Maybe the next investigation should focus on what happened to the Celtics in the first quarter.

L.A's crowd, notorious for arriving late, leaving early and spending more time text messaging and talking on cell phones than clapping, was much more involved than in Game 3. They roared when Lakers Hall of Fame center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar presented the game ball to officials and were on their feet when Los Angeles blasted to a 16-6 lead.

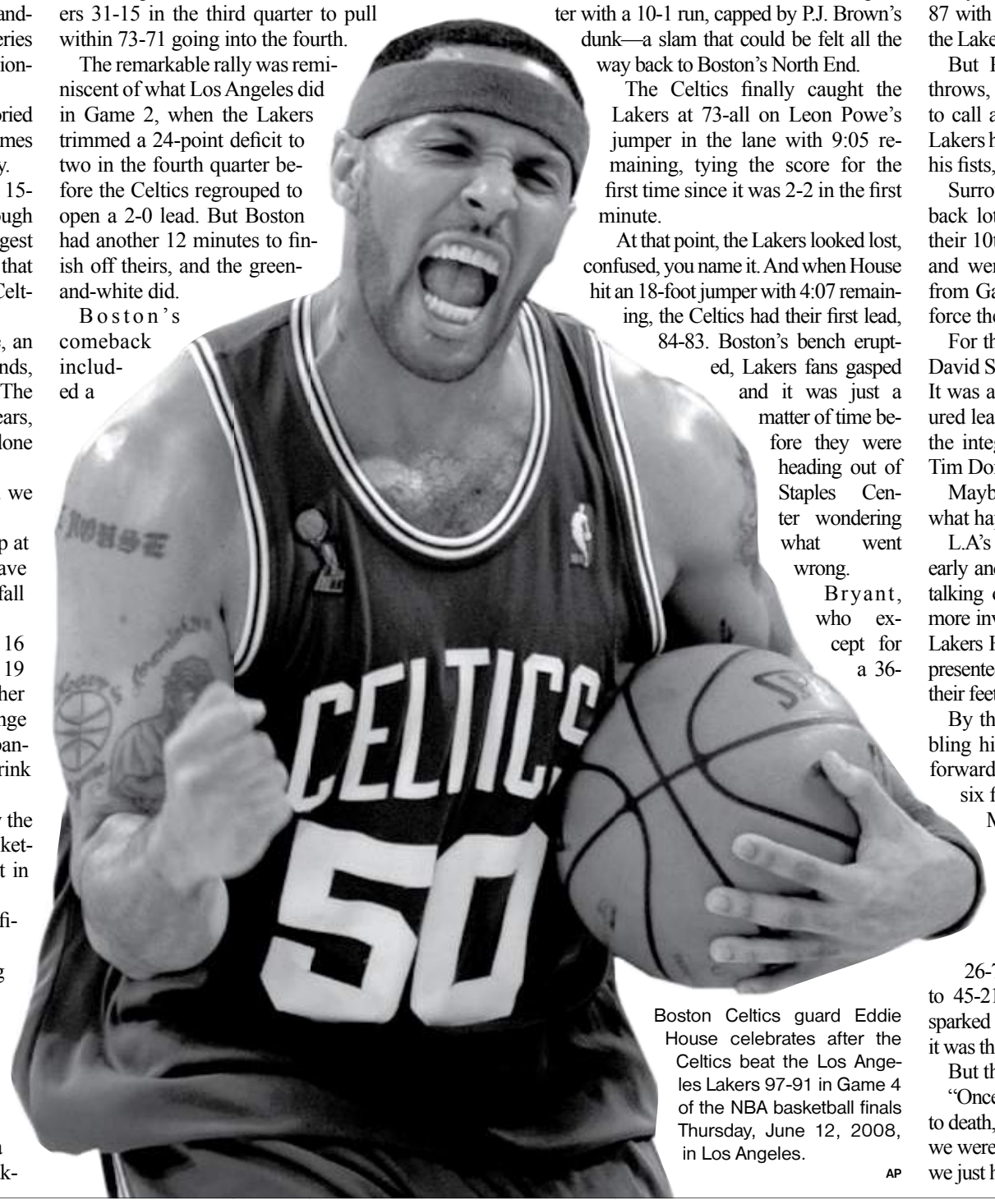
By then, Odom had scored eight points, doubling his total from Game 3 and the enigmatic forward finished the first quarter having made all six field goal attempts and scoring 13 points.

Moments later, Garnett went out with his second personal, and with the NBA's best defender on the bench, the Lakers ran wild.

Odom made consecutive jumpers from the top of the key to put Los Angeles ahead 26-7. The Lakers eventually pushed their lead to 45-21 when Sasha Vujacic, whose 20 points sparked his team in Game 3, nailed a 3-pointer and it was the Boston Massacre, West Coast style.

But the Celtics wouldn't quit.

"Once we got the lead, obviously, we were thrilled to death," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "As far as we were down, nothing was going right for us, and we just hung in there."



Boston Celtics guard Eddie House celebrates after the Celtics beat the Los Angeles Lakers 97-91 in Game 4 of the NBA basketball finals Thursday, June 12, 2008, in Los Angeles.

AP

Sonics think $10M should buy out Seattle lease

SEATTLE (AP)—Seattle has already rejected owner Clay Bennett's $26 million offer to take his SuperSonics to Oklahoma City immediately.

Now the Sonics are trying to make that deal look sweet compared to what could be coming.

Seattle's oldest professional sports franchise, with 41 years in town, is seeking to break the final two years of its lease at KeyArena by paying the city a sum of no more than $10 million—$5.1 million for the 2008-09 season and $4.9 million for 2009-2010—which the team believes would satisfy the rental agreement with the arena.

That is one of the new key assertions in the trial brief filed for the team's upcoming court battle with the city of Seattle.

The Sonics' brief states they lost $30 million this past season when they were 20-62, their worst record. It also asserts the team's dispute with the city is a garden variety tenant-landlord impasse that should not require "specific performance."

The city, which also filed its brief Wednesday, argues the lease explicitly requires "specific performance" —that is, the Sonics need to play in KeyArena until 2010.

U.S. District Judge Marsha Pechman is presiding over the non-jury trial that is scheduled to begin Monday and wrap up June 26. Pechman issued a statement Thursday that she will not issue a verdict on the final day. She will first take time to finish a written verdict, which she will read in open court on a date to be announced.

"Leases are generally not specifically enforceable," reads the first sentence of the Sonics' trial brief. "Damages in the form of rent make the landlord whole."

The city counters in its brief that if the Sonics leave early, it will lose intangible benefits, such as civic pride, that can't be quantified or paid off like rent. And "specific performance" is required within the team's arena lease with Seattle, signed in 1994, which Bennett's Professional Basketball Club LLC agreed to honor when it bought the team in 2006. The lease is effective through the 2009-2010 season.

"The obligations of the parties to this Agreement are unique in nature; this Agreement may be specifically enforced by either party," states Section 27, paragraph L of the lease.

Steve Calandrillo, a contract law professor at the University of Washington Law School, said the judge will have to balance the general rule that courts don't usually grant "specific performance"—meaning they don't force parties to fulfill contract obligations against their will—with the language of the Sonics' lease.

"What it all comes down to is, is specific performance available?" he said. "The Sonics are making a compelling case that in lease disputes, specific performance is not appropriate. But the city of Seattle also has the compelling response that the lease calls for specific performance, which is rare."

The Sonics' brief states the team's partnership with the city of Seattle is broken beyond repair.

"The facts show it is time to end the relationship, not continue it by force. Both parties will be worse off financially with forced performance," the brief said.

In a deposition taken in April, Bennett testified he and his co-owners would lose between $61 million and $65 million if forced to play in Seattle for two "lame-duck" seasons. Bennett said the Sonics would make $18.8 million should the court allow the team to play in his hometown beginning this fall.

"While the city relies on the interests of the public at large, the public is not a party to the lease. As nonparties, their interests are legally irrelevant," the team's brief states.

"The great majority of the public has a yawning indifference to the Sonics' departure," the brief adds.

Stern says NBA referees don't manipulate games

LOS ANGELES (AP)—David Stern came to the defense of his beleaguered referees again Thursday, saying they don't manipulate games or engage in other criminal activity.

Speaking to the media at an NBA finals that has been increasingly overshadowed by the Tim Donaghy scandal, the commissioner said Game 6 of the 2002 Western Conference finals might have been officiated poorly, but honestly and not illegally.

Donaghy claimed this week in a court filing that two "company men" worked that game, in which the Los Angeles Lakers used a huge free-throw advantage in the fourth quarter to avoid elimination against Sacramento.

"The allegations about that are incorrect," Stern said. "Not true."

He said he felt bad for Boston and Los Angeles players in the finals, and especially the officials who have to "defend themselves against allegations by one of their fallen brethren."

Stern acknowledged the FBI investigation into Donaghy's claims did include questions about Dick Bavetta, one of the officials who worked that game, but reiterated the message he has repeated for a year, saying, "the only person now being sentenced for a crime is Mr. Donaghy."

Donaghy admitted to betting on games he officiated, taking cash payments from associates and providing them information to win their bets.

Scheduled to be sentenced next month, Donaghy's making the league very uncomfortable in the meantime.

His latest accusations—that the league gave special treatment to star players and sought to extend series for better ratings, and that some officials enjoyed special relationships with players—have reignited of conspiracy theories.

Tiger Woods 4 shots back as US Open begins

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The focus fell to golf's biggest stars, with fans crammed together a dozen deep in spots at Torrey Pines to see how Tiger Woods dealt with a tender knee and whether Phil Mickelson could overcome so much U.S. Open heartache in his hometown. The lead belonged to the obscure.

Kevin Streelman and Justin Hicks, neither among the top 600 in the world ranking, each shot 3-under 68 on Thursday to borrow the spotlight and take a one-shot lead in the opening round of a U.S. Open that showed a slightly softer side.

They were among 11 players who broke par at Torrey Pines, after only two were in red numbers after the first round last year.

Woods and Mickelson were not among them, then or now.

The world's No. 1 player grimaced and pursed his lips, unable to disguise his pain. No, it wasn't his left knee that had cartilage cleaned out during a surgery two months ago. It was a three-putt to close out his 1-over 72, leaving him four shots out of the lead and one shot behind Mickelson, who shot 71 without a driver in the bag.

Woods expected soreness in his knee. He didn't expect his first double bogey in 416 holes.

"To make two double bogeys and a three-putt and only be four back, that's a great position to be in, because I know I can clean that up tomorrow," Woods said after his first competitive round since the Masters.

Streelman might not be a household name, but Woods knows him.

The 29-year-old PGA Tour rookie is known best for getting into the Buick Invitational as the third alternate in January and playing with Woods in the final group on the weekend. He was No. 1,354 in the world back then, all the way up to No. 608 now.

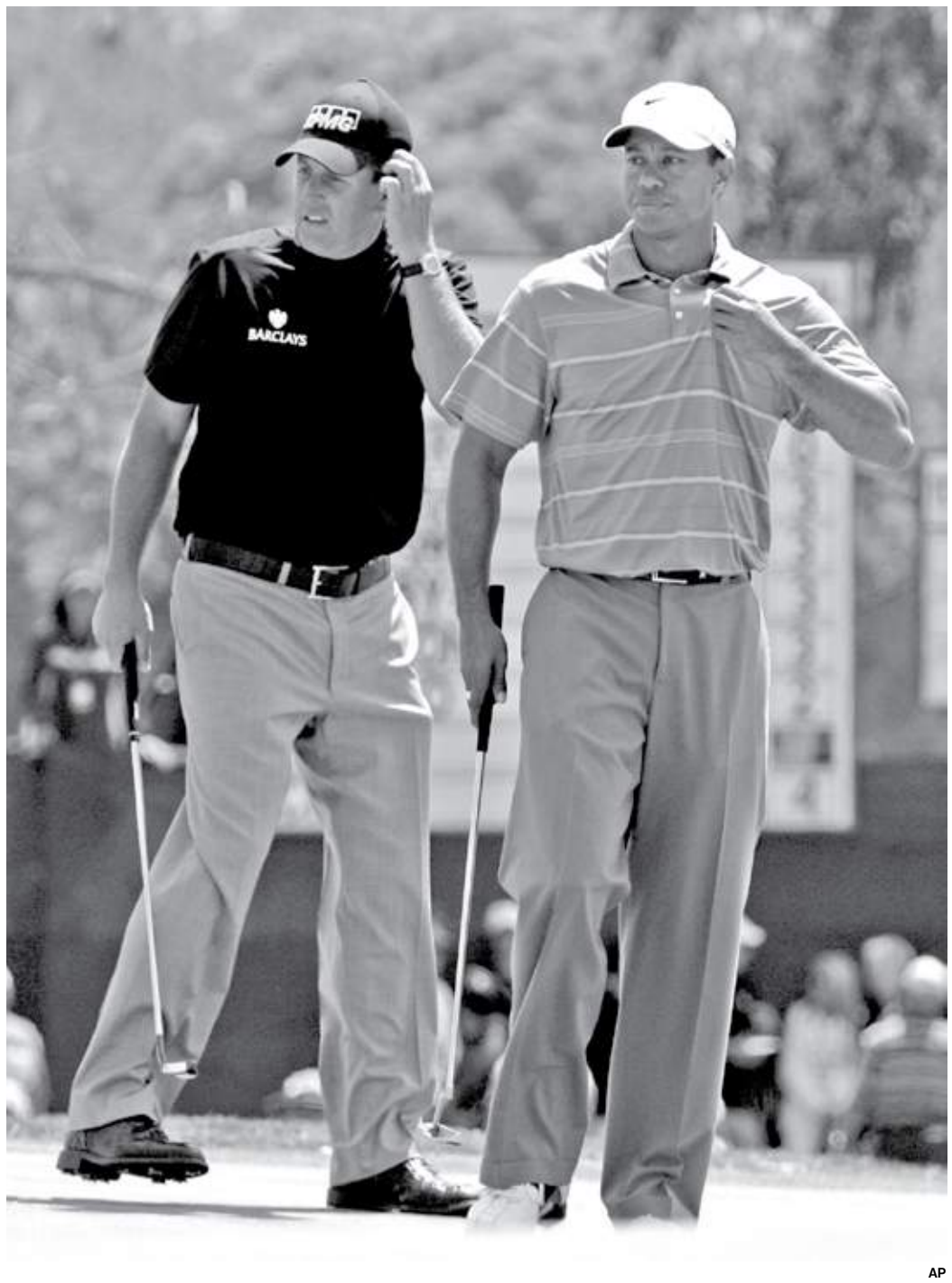
But he was back in his glory Thursday, saving par from everywhere and making enough birdies for a dream start to this major.

"It's been an incredible run on the PGA Tour thus far," he said. "I don't think what happened today has quite sunk in."

Hicks played at the Buick Invitational, too—but it wasn't the same guy whose name was atop the leaderboard of the U.S. Open. Turns out there's another Justin Hicks, a club pro in San Diego, who qualified for the PGA Tour event. He showed up in the gallery to watch Justin Hicks, the Nationwide Tour player, fire off six birdies on his opening nine and hold it together.

"A lot of weird stuff going on out there today," Hicks said.

That includes the star pairing of Woods and Mickelson that brought enormous crowds outside the ropes and more than 100 media inside the ropes. Woods made his first double bogey since September, worked his way onto the leaderboard and then made another.



AP

Phil Mickelson, left, and Tiger Woods wait to putt on the 12th green during the first round of the US Open championship at Torrey Pines Golf Course on Thursday, June 12, 2008 in San Diego.

Mickelson, the guy who carried two drivers in his bag at the Masters when he won his first major, didn't have any in his bag for the U.S. Open. He still managed to reach both par 5s on the back in two, both times settling for birdie on his way to a 71.

"I felt like with the fairways being firm like they were today, all I needed was a 3-wood," Mickelson said.

Stranger still was the eclectic mix of players who managed to break par.

Hicks is No. 722 in the world ranking, Streelman No. 608. Right behind them was Eric Axley (No. 503), who has bittersweet memories of this place. His caddie, Steve DuPlantis, was killed by a car while crossing the street at the Buick Invitational. He shot 69 and was tied with Stuart Appleby, Rocco Mediate and former U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy.

Playing in his fifth U.S. Open, it was the first time Ogilvy had broken par.

Two-time U.S. Open champion Ernie Els was in the group at 70, although he stumbled slightly coming in. Someone mentioned that it was his best golf in a U.S. Open in three years.

"But saying that, it's been virtually impossible to break par the last few U.S. Opens," Els said. "I haven't shot an under-par score since TPC. So that means I'm doing something right."

Not everyone did.

Defending champion Angel Cabrera didn't make birdie until the 13th hole and shot 79. Sergio Garcia, hopeful his victory in The Players Championship would carry him toward that first major, shot 41 on the front and salvaged a 76. Twenty players failed to break 80.

Woods and Mickelson each looked like they could have gone either way, and both wound up in the hunt.

Woods often talks about getting back into the flow after a long layoff, and that didn't take long. He hooked his opening tee shot, chopped out of the rough, then hit a wedge that bounded over the green, leading to double bogey and plenty of murmurs.

"Getting into the flow of the round, it helps when you hit six shots on the first hole," he said.

It was his first double bogey since the opening round of the BMW Championship last September.

"I figured you're going to make bogeys out here," Woods said. "I just happened to make two on the very first hole."

The plan was to get back to par, which is where everyone wants to be at a U.S. Open, and Woods got there with a 5-iron from a fairway bunker to two feet on the tough fourth hole along the bluffs, a tee shot that slowly rolled down the ridge to five feet on the par-3 eighth, and two powerful swings on the 612-yard ninth to the collar of a bunker, from where he chipped to three feet for birdie.

As for the knee?

There was no question it was hurting, especially when he took a huge cut from the rough on No. 12 and went after his tee shot on the 18th hole, a drive so long and straight that he had only 7-iron for his second shot.

"It's a little sore" was about all Woods offered after his round, adding that he felt similar pain during his practice rounds.

But he was back to playing golf, continuing his pursuit of the 18 professional majors won by Jack Nicklaus, and what really made him sore was dropping shots with careless mistakes.

The worst came on the 14th, when he was just short of the green in two and stubbed a pitch that didn't clear the collar of thick rough framing a bunker. That double bogey put him over par, and he never got it back.

"Those two 6s, I didn't take care of both par 5s on the back nine," Woods said, going over his round. "As I said, plenty of holes to go. We're all going to make mistakes out here."

Mickelson made his share, starting with a three-putt bogey on No. 5 for the first of three straight bogeys.

He was four behind Woods through 12 holes, tied with him two holes later after a two-putt birdie on the 13th and a beautiful approach to three feet on the 14th. Each birdied revved up the gallery even more, the cheers evenly divided for Woods, a six-time winner of the Buick Invitational, and Mickelson, who grew up in San Diego.

"It was pretty interesting to tee off at 8 o'clock and have this many people out here," Mickelson said.

They saw just about everything but the guys leading the tournament.

Giants' Burress won't practice without new pact

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Plaxico Burress isn't going to practice with the New York Giants until the Super Bowl champions give him a new contract.

Burress reported to the Giants' mandatory minicamp Wednesday but refused to work out because he wasn't happy with the way contract negotiations are progressing between the team and agent Drew Rosenhaus.

Coach Tom Coughlin had indicated after practice that Burress did not work out because of a knee injury, but the receiver said he was healthy.

"Me and my agent are trying to get a deal done so I can stay a New York Giant for a long time," Burress said. "I, personally, don't like the way they're going and I am not happy about it. I am choosing not to participate."

General manager Jerry Reese refused to comment, saying it was an internal matter.

Burress, who caught a game-winning 13-yard touchdown pass with 35 seconds remaining in the Super Bowl to give the Giants a 17-14 win over the previously unbeaten New England Patriots, has three years remaining his six-year, $25 million deal. He will earn $3.25 million this year, $3.5 million in 2009 and $3.75 million in 2010.

"I'm not saying I'm being mistreated," Burress said. "Everybody wants to be treated fairly."

By current standards, Burress is being underpaid.

Terrell Owens of Dallas and Randy Moss of New England recently signed three-year contracts for $27 million, while Larry Fitzgerald of the Arizona Cardinals got a four-year, $40 million contract with a $30 million guarantee.

"This is only my ninth season," Burress said. "I'm in the prime years of my career. I know I can play stellar football for at least another four or five more years."

Despite playing with a season-long ankle injury and a knee problem in the postseason, Burress had a team-high 70 catches for 1,025 yards and a career-best 12 touchdown catches. He has caught 209 passes as a Giant, leading the team in catches in two of his three seasons.

Burress and Eli Manning have combined for 29 touchdown catches since 2005, the most by a receiver-quarterback tandem in the league during that time.

"Last year was one of the most frustrating years I've been through," Burress said. "I sit back and look at myself, if I can go out and do the things I did, basically on one leg, and a half a knee in the Super Bowl, what type of performance am I going to give when I'm 100 percent?"

Burress said contract talks with the team started a month ago.

Speaking on a conference call, Rosenhaus said he does not like to discuss ongoing negotiations.

"We are hoping to get something worked out in the near future," he said.

Burress said that the Giants have known that he was unhappy with his contract so it should not have surprised them that he did not practice. He said he did not tell Coughlin that he would not be working out.

The Giants have a history of renegotiating contracts. Coughlin got a new $21 million contract after the Super Bowl.

Reese got $4 million of salary cap space to play with after Michael Strahan retired this week, but he still has to work out contracts for guard Chris Snee and halfback Brandon Jacobs. Pro Bowl defensive end Osi Umenyiora also hinted that he wants a new deal.

Burress did not think that the Giants could fine him because he reported to the minicamp. He refused to say whether he would report to training camp in July if his contract issue had not been settled, but the smile seemed to indicate that he would hold out.

"We have been trying to handle it with class," Burress said. "We have been trying to do it the right way. Sometimes you just got stand up for what's right."

Lowell grand slam leads Red Sox past Orioles

BOSTON (AP) — Mike Lowell hit his second grand slam of the season to trigger the Boston Red Sox to yet another home win Thursday, beating the Baltimore Orioles 9-2 in the American League.

The Red Sox are 18-3 in their past 21 games at Fenway Park. Their 28-7 home record is the best in the majors, but their 14-20 mark away from home is the worst of the six divisional leaders going into a six-game road trip starting Friday.

Yankees 4, Athletics 1

In Oakland, California, Hideki Matsui hit a grand slam on his 34th birthday and that was all the runs New York needed to beat Oakland.

Pitcher Andy Pettitte move into a tie for fourth place on the New York Yankees career wins list. Pettitte bounced back from giving up a career high-tying 10 runs last Saturday to shut down the A's and tie Ron Guidry with his 170th victory in Yankee pinstripes. Pettitte allowed only one run in a season-high eight innings.

Tigers 2, White Sox 1

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera hit a game-ending solo homer in the ninth inning as Detroit completed a three-game sweep of Chicago.

Indians 12, Twins 2

In Cleveland, Ben Francisco and Jamey Carroll had four hits apiece to lead injury-depleted Cleveland over Minnesota.

Even with five key players from last year's AL Central champion team on the disabled list, the Indians had 18 hits.

Second baseman Carroll went 4-for-4 with an RBI and was 8-for-9 in the three-game series. Francisco went 4-for-5 with three RBIs.

Royals 6, Rangers 5

In Kansas City, Missouri, Alex Gordon and Mike Aviles each hit two-run homers as Kansas City avoided a three-game sweep by Texas.

The Rangers led 5-4 before Kansas City pushed across two runs in the eighth.

Phillies 3, Marlins 0

In Miami, veteran Philadelphia pitcher Jamie Moyer took a no-hitter into the sixth inning, extending his dominance over Florida and giving the Phillies a win over the Marlins.

Philadelphia scored two runs off a wild pitch on the way to avoiding a three-game sweep, putting the Phillies three games clear of Florida atop the NL East.

Cubs 3, Braves 2, 11 innings

In Chicago, pitcher Jeff Ridgway hit Reed Johnson with the bases loaded in the 11th inning, giving Chicago victory over reeling Atlanta.

The Braves have lost six straight and fell to 7-24 on the road this season. They have lost their past 21 one-run games on the road since August, matching the longest such streak in major league history.

Chicago's Jim Edmonds tied it at 2 with a one-out solo homer in the ninth, setting the stage for the comeback victory.

Reds 6, Cardinals 2

In Cincinatti, Brandon Phillips hit a three-run triple in a four-run seventh inning which secured a win for Cincinatti over St. Louis.

The Reds loaded the bases with two outs in the seventh. A walk delivered the go-ahead run and Phillips followed with a drive down the right-field line.

Brewers 9, Astros 6

In Houston, Ben Sheets struck out a season-high nine batters as Milwaukee downed Houston.

Mike Cameron and Corey Hart homered for the second straight game as the Brewers took two of three in the road series.

The Astros have lost five consecutive series.

Diamondbacks 5, Mets 4, 10 innings

In New York, closing pitcher Billy Wagner blew his third consecutive save chance as New York lost to Arizona.

The All-Star closer squandered a two-run lead in the ninth inning.

Padres 9, Dodgers 0

In San Diego, the home team scored five first-inning runs in a win over Los Angeles.

Padres pitcher Jake Peavy combined with three relievers on a five-hitter in his first start in nearly a month since being sidelined by a strained right elbow.

The Padres gave Peavy plenty of support, hitting consecutive home runs in the first to put them on the path to a sixth win in seven games.

Pirates 7, Nationals 5

In Pittsburgh, Ryan Doumit hit another home run in Pittsburgh's win over Washington.

In the three-game series, the Pirates catcher went 9-for-11 with four home runs, two doubles and seven RBIs to help the hosts win two of three.

Giants 10, Rockies 7

In Denver, Fred Lewis hit a three-run homer to help San Francisco avoid being swept by Colorado.

Giants second baseman Ray Durham picked up his 2,000th career hit.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	42	27	.609	–
Tampa Bay	38	28	.576	2 1/2
New York	34	33	.507	7
Toronto	34	34	.500	7 1/2
Baltimore	32	33	.492	8

Central Division

Chicago	37	29	.561	–
Minnesota	32	35	.478	5 1/2
Cleveland	31	36	.463	6 1/2
Detroit	29	37	.439	8
Kansas City	26	41	.388	11 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	41	26	.612	–
Oakland	35	31	.530	5 1/2
Texas	34	34	.500	7 1/2
Seattle	24	42	.364	16 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	40	28	.588	–
Florida	36	30	.545	3
Atlanta	32	35	.478	7 1/2
New York	31	34	.477	7 1/2
Washington	26	42	.382	14

Central Division

Chicago	43	24	.642	–
St. Louis	40	28	.588	3 1/2
Milwaukee	35	31	.530	7 1/2
Houston	33	34	.493	10
Pittsburgh	33	34	.493	10
Cincinnati	32	36	.471	11 1/2

West Division

Arizona	36	31	.537	–
Los Angeles	31	35	.470	4 1/2
San Francisco	30	37	.448	6
San Diego	30	38	.441	6 1/2
Colorado	26	40	.394	9 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 7, Washington 5
Arizona 5, N.Y. Mets 4, 10 innings
Milwaukee 9, Houston 6
Chicago Cubs 3, Atlanta 2, 11 innings
San Francisco 10, Colorado 7
San Diego 9, L.A. Dodgers 0
Philadelphia 3, Florida 0
Cincinnati 6, St. Louis 2
Detroit 2, Chicago White Sox 1
Kansas City 6, Texas 5
Boston 9, Baltimore 2
Cleveland 12, Minnesota 2
N.Y. Yankees 4, Oakland 1

U.S. OPEN SCORES

SAN DIEGO (AP)–Scores from the opening round of the U.S. Open golf championship at the 7,643-yard, par-71 Torrey Pines course. Purse to be announced, last year $7 million. (a-amateur):

FIRST ROUND

Justin Hicks	35-33	68
Kevin Streelman	35-33	68
Rocco Mediate	34-35	69
Stuart Appleby	36-33	69
Eric Axley	34-35	69
Geoff Ogilvy	35-34	69
a-Rickie Fowler	35-35	70
Robert Karlsson	37-33	70
Lee Westwood	35-35	70
Robert Allenby	36-34	70
Ernie Els	36-34	70
Patrick Sheehan	32-39	71
Joe Ogilvie	35-36	71
Phil Mickelson	38-33	71
Andres. Romero	35-36	71
Carl Pettersson	36-35	71
Vijay Singh	36-35	71
Luke Donald	37-34	71
a-Kyle Stanley	37-35	72
Casey Wittenberg	37-35	72
Oliver Wilson	33-39	72
Tiger Woods	34-38	72
Woody Austin	37-35	72
Jon Mills	38-34	72
Stewart Cink	35-37	72
Scott Verplank	36-36	72
Davis Love III	37-35	72
D.J. Trahan	34-38	72
Hunter Mahan	36-36	72
Ian Leggatt	36-36	72
Brett Quigley	35-38	73
Adam Scott	35-38	73
Boo Weekley	36-37	73
a-Derek Fathauer	36-37	73
Steve Stricker	41-32	73
Tim Clark	37-36	73
Matt Kuchar	35-38	73
Nick Watney	35-38	73
Daniel Chopra	37-36	73
Mike Weir	36-37	73
Ross Fisher	35-38	73
Steve Marino	40-33	73
Brandt Jobe	38-35	73
Rob Dinwiddie	35-38	73
Camilo Villegas	37-36	73
Rory Sabbatini	36-37	73
John Mallinger	36-37	73
John Merrick	36-37	73
D.A. Points	35-39	74
Fredrik Jacobson	36-38	74
Dustin Johnson	35-39	74
Rich Beem	37-37	74
Todd Hamilton	38-36	74
Anthony Kim	37-37	74
Ryuji Imada	37-37	74
K.J. Choi	39-35	74
Jim Furyk	37-37	74
a-Mike Thompson	35-39	74
Thomas Levet	37-37	74
Rod Pampling	37-37	74
Aaron Baddeley	36-38	74
Stephen Ames	36-38	74
Toru Taniguchi	35-39	74
a-Kevin Tway	37-38	75
Chris Kirk	36-39	75
Lee Janzen	36-39	75
Miguel Angel Jimenez	36-39	75
Sean English	36-39	75
Craig Parry	37-38	75
Jerry Kelly	40-35	75
Pat Perez	37-38	75
Heath Slocum	37-38	75
Ben Crane	41-34	75
Jarrod Lyle	39-36	75
Trevor Immelman	36-39	75
Ben Curtis	37-38	75
J.B. Holmes	35-40	75
Jonathan Byrd	38-37	75
Bart Bryant	38-37	75
John Rollins	38-37	75
Charles Howell III	39-36	75
Martin Kaymer	37-38	75
Justin Leonard	37-38	75
Mark O'Meara	36-39	75
David Hearn	36-40	76
Jason Bohn	41-35	76
Dean Wilson	38-38	76
Peter Tomasulo	38-38	76
Joey Lamielle	37-39	76
Charlie Beljan	39-37	76
Sergio Garcia	41-35	76
Zach Johnson	39-37	76
Retief Goosen	36-39	76
Brandt Snedeker	38-38	76
Richard Sterne	40-36	76
David Toms	39-37	76
Alastair Forsyth	39-37	76
Ross McGowan	40-36	76
Andrew Dresser	41-35	76
Jesper Parnevik	38-39	77
Shingo Katayama	38-39	77
Robert Garrigus	41-36	77
Brad Bryant	40-37	77
Mathew Goggin	39-38	77
a-Nick Taylor	38-39	77
Bubba Watson	38-39	77
Andrew Svoboda	35-42	77
Michael Letzig	39-38	77
Jon Turcott	36-41	77
Chad Campbell	38-39	77
John Ellis	38-39	77
a-Jeff Wilson	38-40	78
Steve Flesch	39-39	78
Michael Campbell	40-38	78
Brian Kortan	38-40	78
Scott Piercy	40-38	78
Niclas Fasth	37-41	78
Soren Hansen	38-40	78
Fernando Figueroa	38-40	78
Padraig Harrington	37-41	78
Nick Dougherty	36-42	78
Phil Archer	37-41	78
Michael Allen	39-39	78
Ian Poulter	38-40	78
Henrik Stenson	39-39	78
Johan Edfors	38-41	79
D.J. Brigman	40-39	79
Angel Cabrera	43-36	79
Jason Gore	41-38	79
Jay Choi	41-38	79
Artemio Murakami	41-38	79
Paul Casey	39-40	79
Justin Rose	38-41	79
Jeff Quinney	42-37	79
Colin Montgomerie	39-40	79
Hunter Haas	39-41	80
a-Jordan Cox	37-43	80
Craig Barlow	38-42	80
Kevin Silva	38-42	80
Bob Gaus	40-40	80
Garrett Chaussard	39-41	80
Scott Sterling	40-40	80
Jeffrey Bors	38-43	81
Rob Rashell	42-39	81
a-Jimmy Henderson	39-42	81
Travis Bertoni	39-43	82
Yohann Benson	41-42	83
Gary Wolstenholme	39-44	83
Chris Devlin	40-44	84
Bobby Collins	40-44	84
Chris Stroud	42-42	84
Mike Gilmore	44-42	86
a-Michael Quagliano	45-41	86
Brian Bergstol	41-45	86
Philippe Gasnier	42-44	86
Mark Calcavecchia	WD	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MULLINS

From Page 28

and Field has finally been certified and that she's looking forward to inspecting it today.

"We've done certification on the track so I'm going to take a look at it. We will do some training with the officials as well and just really make sure that everything is up and ready. We're here a week before which gives us a lot of opportunities to meet with the local organizing committee and just to tie up any loose ends."

She said the problem with the track was nothing unusual as every track that has been constructed in the world usually has a couple of little kinks here and there.

In the Oleai Track and Field's case, an old rule was used on it that was no longer accepted by the federation.

"It turned out that it was not a major deal and we're very delighted that the track is up to certification. It's exactly what it needs to be for the Oceania Championships. It's the same as many of the tracks in Australia and New Zealand. It's not certified to run the World Championships but it's certified to run an area championships and that's what we need," she added.

Mullins said so far so good in preparations for the 2008 Oceania Championships set for June 25 and 28.

"I think the local organizing committee is doing a great job and all I'm here to do is to run around and help them if they need any help. But I think they've done a great job. I think we're in a far better position for this Championships than two years ago when we went to Fiji and then to Samoa. I think we're going to have a good championship here," she said.

With Mullins and Juventin finally arriving on Saipan, Barnes jokingly said: "Well, we can't back down now!"

Seriously, the longtime CNMI resident and Northern Marianas College official welcomed the two OAA officials and then invited the community to come down to Oleai and watch the events.

"I just want everybody to know that this is going to be the biggest track meet in the history of Micronesia and we'll never have this track meet again in the next 20 years. Everyone is invited to come and there'll be a lot of fantastic events. Every event is going to set a track record."

TAGA

From Page 28

Cosino, Ronald Delos Reyes, Jun Abedes, and Danny Bicera had trouble keeping up with CTSI's two-point guard attack led by Adonis Macoto and Ferdie Tobias.

At the end of the first half, CTSI surprisingly held a 10-point lead, 45-35.

The taller and heftier Taga Warriors finally began to take its toll against the smaller CTSI crew in the third, as Abedes and Bicera combined to score 12 of the team's 22 points to help Taga Warriors take the lead and enter the fourth and final quarter ahead by three points, 57-54.

Both teams matched each other point for point in the payoff period resulting in Taga Warriors taking the win and advancing to the next round of the 40-and-over age group.

In the second game, Tasi Tours' own dynamic duo of Ehroll Peredo and Sonny Ranola got the better of their matchup against Shirley's one-two punch of Elmer Esdrelon and Ryan Sanciangco to lead the Giants to victory and a berth in the second round of the open competition.

First Game

Taga Warriors 72 – Abedes 24, Cosino 18, Delos Reyes 14, Nicdao 8, Bicera 8.

CTSI 69 – Jinang 23, Macoto 12, Salazar 10, Solidum 9, Tobias 7, Galag 4, Thompson 2, Alcantara 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-18, 35-45, 57-54, 72-69.

Referees: Jess Pabula and Gilbert Espinosa.

Second Game

Tasi Tours 99 – Peredo 32, Ranola 31, Aquino 14, Basila 12, De Belen 3, Joyner 3, Talania 2.

Shirley's Coffee Shop 90 – Esdrelon 27, Sanciangco 22, Rasa 17, Barbo 8, Marasigan 7, Mercurio 5, Montano 4.

Scoring by quarters: 24-27, 58-46, 82-66, 99-90.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Jess Pabula.

2008 Women's Recreational Football League

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Pacific Islands Club's Paradise in Cleats pose with the 2008 Women's Recreational Football League perpetual trophy after beating Matt Smith's Smithereens, 2-1, in the finals last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field. Also in photo are PIC's Evan Hunsberger, left, and PTI's Brad Ruszala.

Pacific Islands Club's Paradise in Cleats captain Brenda Shultz hugs the perpetual trophy after her team beat Matt Smith's Smithereens, 2-1, in overtime last Saturday in the finals of the 2008 Women's Recreational Football League.

Matt Smith's Smithereens finished runner-up to PIC in last Saturday's finale. Also in photo is former CNMI National Football player Yosh Gabaldon.

PIC's Nicolette Seckeler tries to advance the football against a phalanx of Smithereens defenders.

Chantelle Voutilainen of PIC kicks the ball forward as captain Brenda Shultz looks on.

PIC's Rachel Bandelin, (33) defends against an unidentified Smithereens player.

Wild Bill's Wild Fire's Patty Coleman in action in the battle for third against Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues played before the championship game. Wild Fire won 2-0.

Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues' Linda Anastacio literally uses her head to pass the ball to a teammate.

Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues players on the attack against the Wild Bill's Wild Fire defense.

Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues' Linda Anastacio tries to control the football in their third place game against Wild Bill's Wild Fire.

Lowell grand slam leads Red Sox past Orioles

Mike Lowell hit his second grand slam of the season to trigger the Boston Red Sox to yet another home win Thursday, beating the Baltimore Orioles 9-2 in the American League.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Celtics storm back, beat Lakers 97-91 in Game 4

In their comeback season, the Celtics saved the biggest one of all for the NBA finals. Boston rallied from a 24-point deficit and beat the Los Angeles Lakers 97-91 on Thursday night.

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Saipan Major All-Stars going to HK

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan's best 9-12-year-old ballplayers will represent the CNMI in the 2008 Asia-Pacific Major League Tournament in Hong Kong after beating Rota, 11-1, yesterday at the Joaquin Ogo Sr. Baseball Field in Sinapalo.

The island's flame-throwing pitcher Chris Mizer shut down the host's batters in three innings of work, recording seven strikeouts and no hits while giving up one error and a run in yet another mercy rule-shortened victory for the Saipan Little Leaguers.

Saipan's hitters were also equally adept in scoring runs for the powerhouse team, as they tortured Rota's pitchers with five runs in the first inning, two in the third, and four more in the fourth for good measure.

Jared Sablan started things off for Saipan by singling off Rota's starting pitcher and then scored off a pass ball.

Ricky Joe Riungel and Jeremy Rabauliman then crossed home plate following an RBI single by Mizer to give Saipan a 3-0 lead.

Mizer himself was brought home by A.J. Lizama who also scored when Rota catcher Daniel Taitano failed to make a play on the ball.

Down 0-5, Rota had no chance against Mizer as the Patriots ace in the Saipan Major Little League shut them down in consecutive order in the bottom of the first.

After Saipan's bats fell silent in the second, Mizer made sure Tinian's would also, as he retired Ian Jacob, Henry Manglona, and Joe Taitano—all on strikeouts—to keep the shutout going.

Jeremy Lizama and Frankie Camacho gave Saipan two more runs in the third to make it 7-0, but Rota got on the board in the bottom of the inning when Henry Atalig raced home to make it 7-1.

Saipan retaliated in the top of the third, as A.J. Lizama brought home Mizer and Jeremy Rabauliman on a single. That, along with runs by Jun Rabauliman and A.J. Lizama himself, shoved Saipan to an 11-1 lead.

Mizer's replacement, Jeremy Rabauliman, then made sure the finals would end via mercy run rule when he struck out Manglona, Taitano, and Atalig in consecutive order.

Jeremy Rabauliman and A.J. Lizama led Saipan's hit parade as both went 2-for-2 with two hits and an RBI each.

The rest of the Saipan Major All-Stars is made up of Jonah Flores, Jerome Reyes, Keene Deleon Guerrero, R.J. Knecht, Raymond Saralu, and Poland Masaharu. The team is managed by Randall Aguon with Elmer Sablan and Manny Sablan serving as coaches.

In the Senior League played at the old ballpark in Songsong Village, Rota advanced to the championship against Saipan after winning its uncompleted game against Tinian, 14-9, yesterday. The championship of the 2008 CNMI Senior District Tournament is set at 10am today.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Saipan Major All-Star Chris Mizer, seen here throwing from the mound in this file photo, recorded seven strikeouts in the team's 11-1 win over Rota in the championship of the 2008 CNMI Major League District Tournament.

Jordan soars in RGA June Ace

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Jordan Kossam won the Refaluwasch Golf Association's June Ace of the Month Tournament after none of the 15 players that teed off last Sunday topped his qualifying score of net 64.

Kossam fired the score to beat during the June Ace of the Month qualifier held last May 25 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

The closest anyone came to beating Kossam's score was Louie Tilipao, who recorded a net score of 67 after his gross score of 81 (41-40) was sliced by 14 his handicap last Sunday at he Koblerville golf venue.

Joe Demapan and Tars Olopai came in second and third with net scores of 67 and 71, respectively. Demapan came away with a gross score of 82 (42-40), while Olopai had a pre-handicap score of 83 (40-43).

Other RGA members that teed off Sunday, with their scores in parenthesis, were as follows: Joe Lizama (net 71), Bill Kaipat (71), Manny Mangareo (72), Ed Tenorio (72), Dick Pierce (72), Adam Hardwicke (73), Jess Wabol (74), Dwain Stephens (75), Don Fitial (77), Asterio Tawanpiy (77), Andy Nepaial (80), and Joe Wabol (80).

In the closest to the pin, Stephens was without peer in hole No. 3 while Joe Wabol took the prize in hole No. 14.

RGA president Adam Hardwicke also took the opportunity to welcome new members Stephens and Mangareo to the club.

For more information about RGA's qualifying and monthly competitions, contact president Hardwicke at 483-2926 or tournament director Jess Wabol at 233-3673.

Mullins arrives for Oceania Championships

By MARK RABAGO
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Oceania Athletics Association executive secretary Yvonne Mullins and Tahiti representative Titaua Juventin planed in yesterday and will spend the next 17 days on Saipan to help with the island's hosting of the 2008 Oceania Championships.

Welcoming the two OAA officials at the Francisco M. Ada-Saipan International Airport were Northern Marianas Athletics president Kurt Barnes, general secretary Robin Sapong, and Penny Jones.

Mullins said she is happy to be back on Saipan and congratulated the CNMI for hosting this year's Oceania Championships.

"It's a fabulous event for the Northern Marianas and they did a really great job in the Micronesian Regional Championships in 2005 and also in the 2006 Micro Games. Both of those events led me to believe that they will run a very good [Oceania] Championships," she said.

The OAA executive secretary also said that she's glad that the Oleai Track

See MULLINS on Page 26

MARK RABAGO
Oceania Athletics Association executive secretary Yvonne Mullins, second from left, and Tahiti representative Titaua Juventin, fourth from left, pose with Northern Marianas Athletics officials Kurt Barnes and Robin Sapong. Also in the photo is Penny Jones, right.

Taga Warriors, Tasi Tours advance

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Taga Warriors and Tasi Tours Giants advanced to the next round of their respective divisions as the playoffs of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League finally got going Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the curtain raiser, Taga Warriors bucked a slow start to beat CTSI, 72-69, in the masters division. Tasi Tours, meanwhile, used its height advantage to the hilt in exacting a 99-90 loss to Shirley's Coffee Shop/Blue House in the nightcap in the open division.

CTSI jumped the gun on Taga Warriors as Ariel Jinang pumped in 10 first quarter points to help his team take an 18-14 spread into the second.

Taga Warriors continued to struggle in the second quarter, as big men Ed

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MARK RABAGO
CTSI's Ferdie Tobias challenges the defense of Taga Warriors' Ronald Delos Reyes during their playoff game in the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League masters division Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.